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CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY

— AND THE —

North-West

LANDS.

— ALSO A —

BRIEF DISCUSSION

REGARDING

THE  
SILENT  
SILENT

ROUTE

— THE —

Western

TERMINUS

— AND THE —

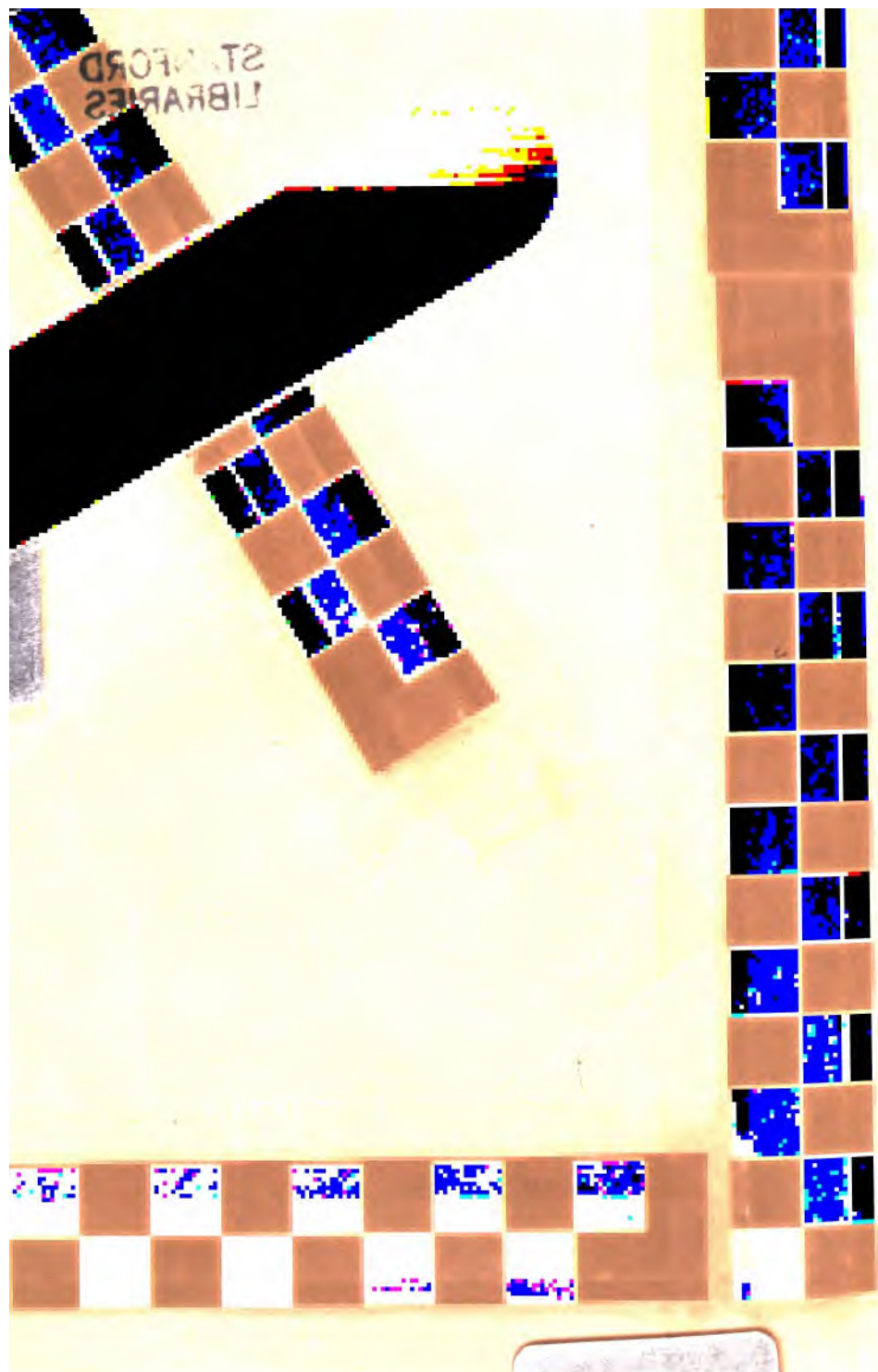
lands Available for Settlement.

BY C. HORETZKY.

Ottawa :

PRINTED BY C. W. MITCHELL, 6, 8 and 10 Elgin Street.

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SOME STARTLING FACTS  
—RELATING TO THE—  
**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**  
—AND THE—  
NORTH-WEST LANDS,  
—ALSO—  
A BRIEF DISCUSSION  
REGARDING  
THE ROUTE, THE WESTERN TERMINUS  
—AND—  
THE LANDS AVAILABLE FOR SETTLEMENT,  
—BY—  
C. HORETZKY.

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Ottawa:  
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "FREE PRESS," ELGIN STREET.  
1880.



Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1877,  
Hortzky, in the office of the Minister of Agriculture.

## Prefatory Remarks.

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Various indications point to the existence of a wide spread and rapidly growing feeling of dissatisfaction and distrust throughout the older provinces of the Dominion, with regard to the adopted route and construction of that portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway which traverses the "Rocky Mountain" and "Cascade" Zones, and terminates at Burrard Inlet.

The main difficulty in the construction of the Pacific Railway is encountered in the "Cascade" or Coast range, through which any line from the interior of the Continent must pass in order to reach the coast. All surveys made hitherto have been met by this grave obstacle. The "Yale," "Bute Inlet," "Kemsquit," and "Skeena" routes are all, owing to this impediment, well nigh impracticable, and the adoption of any one of them could only be justified, were it to lead to tangible advantages beyond. No such advantages exist, the entire seaboard being but the adamantine buttress of a mountain range, one hundred miles in width.

The seaboard again, although pierced by countless Inlets, and presenting on the map a most favourable appearance, offers in reality very grave obstacles to the mariner, because of the nearly universal dearth of good anchorages. On the whole mainland coast there is but one really good natural harbour—Port Simpson. All others have drawbacks in a more or less degree.

The writer claims to be able to point out a solution of the coast range difficulty, besides certain other advantages of paramount impor-

pages is, to some extent, a more  
of railway reports, in order to elucidate  
in favour of a Northern route for the Pacific  
the "Pine River Pass" of the Rocky Mountains,  
as opposed to that of the "Yellow Head Pass," as advanced in 1874 in  
a work entitled "Canada on the Pacific."

The writer has been connected with the Pacific Railway surveys  
since 1871, and has been actively engaged in the project, and during the past nine years has  
seen and examined much more of the North-Western country of  
British Columbia than perhaps any Engineer of Mr. Fenwick's staff.

Besides having originated the northern route *via* the Pine River Pass,  
in opposition to the views of certain individuals identified with the  
Frazer River Line, the writer claims a special practical knowledge of  
the British Columbian coast, from the Alaskan boundary line, south-  
wards, and has, therefore, no hesitation in giving his views to the public,  
he merely asks the reader to examine carefully the written testimony, and  
to trust to his own common sense for his deductions.

CHAS. HORNBY,

*Late of the C. P. R. Secy.*

OTTAWA, May 31st, 1880.



**T**HE object of the present pamphlet is to place prominently before the thinking portion of the Canadian public certain facts bearing materially, not only upon the future prospects of the country at large, but also and by no means in a small degree, upon British Imperial interests, in so far at least as these interests may be vested in the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Acting upon the advice—presumably at least—of the Chief Engineer of the railway in question, the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald has taken the initiatory step towards carrying out the compact of 1871 with British Columbia. Construction has been commenced on the Yale-Kamloops Section—a length of 125 miles.

The *Toronto Mail* of the 6th May, in commenting upon the very serious question of routes, betrayed its misgivings by the utterance of the following apologetical remark:—

“It must be said that if a mistake should have been made in the choice of the Burrard Inlet route, that mistake will have been made without shame or blame to any one.”

Exception may, perhaps, be taken to the above allegation. It is scarcely a matter of doubt that a mistake, and a very serious one, has been made. The article in question speaks of three seriously competing routes: the “Burrard,” the “Bute” and the “Port Simpson” routes.

“After eight years of surveys pushed forward at great cost, and “with infinite labour to all concerned,” the question has not been exhausted, and the testimony given in the following pages establishes beyond doubt that the true trans-continental route, and the true “Pacific” terminus of that route, have been most unaccountably lost sight of.

Six years ago, during an examination of the north-west coast of British Columbia, I discovered at the head of the “Kitimat” Inlet, or Douglas Channel, a small land-locked harbour, north from which stretched a beautiful valley leading directly to, and touching, the River Skeena at a point 75 miles above Port Essington. So much impressed were my little party and myself with the natural facilities of this locality towards the formation of a good harbour, and its adaptability for a terminus, that I made two attempts to discover access





Kitimat, eastward to a point on the now located southern line, known as "Livingston," distant 682 miles from Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior.

A circumstance which, more perhaps than anything else, commends this route to our consideration, is the extraordinary fact that the formidable coast range of mountains which necessitates such frightful expenditure on the "Yale Kamloops," "Homathco," "Kemsquit," and Port Simpson routes, can be passed upon this one, with nearly as little trouble, danger or cost, as upon an average prairie section, the valley of the Kitimat being several miles in width, of a nearly level character, and clothed with a magnificent forest of heavy spruce, hemlock, cedar, and other trees, amongst which crab-apple and maple may occasionally be seen.

From tide water at the head of Douglas Arm, the valley rises almost imperceptibly for about 20 or 25 miles, at the rate of four-tenths per hundred to the "Divide," near Lake "Killoosah" or "Lakelse," thence the descent to the Skeena, or to some point upon that river nearly opposite the "Kitsumkallum" River, is very gradual, the entire distance probably not exceeding forty (40) miles. The mouth of the "Kitsumkallum" River is, by Mr. Keefer's estimate, about seventy-five miles above Port Essington, or rather more than 100 miles from Port Simpson, within which distance the work of railway construction along the Skeena would be extremely heavy, the line proposed being carried in the river bed in many places where the mountain bases afford little chance for a road-bed. In more than a dozen places the precipitous slopes are swept by avalanches of the most dangerous character. The shores of Wark Inlet are but little better. The contrast between those routes is very striking, and, as has been shown, the distance between Kitsumkallum and the sea is very much more than doubled on the difficult and expensive Skeena line. Roughly estimating, for the sake of comparison, the cost of construction on that portion of the Skeena route at six million dollars, and that of the Kitimat at one-and-a-half million dollars, we have a difference in the first section from tide water of four-and-a-half millions dollars, not to speak of extra cost for maintenance and repairs, which would, of course, be very much greater on the Port Simpson, Skeena route. One-fourth of that difference would go far towards the formation of an excellent terminal harbour at the head of the Douglas Arm.

From a point opposite Kitsumkallum River, on the left bank of the Skeena, the distance, to Hazelton, or the "Forks," is little more than seventy



to the careful estimate of Mr. H. [redacted] moderate, and the proportion of heavy [redacted] tenth, or ten miles, the balance moderate [redacted] Mr. S. Fleming's Report of 1880.

[redacted] the line would attain, with very moderate grades [redacted] elevation above sea of nearly one thousand feet upon the [redacted] the base of the Rocher Débonlé Mountain [redacted] it leaves [redacted] to follow the valley of the "Wotsongqua" for 1 [redacted] es, to the [redacted] open the waters of the latter and those of the "In [redacted] Mr. H. [redacted] describes this section, at page 39, App [redacted] C. of Mr. S. Fleming's Report for 1878:—

"The River Wotsongqua, from its mouth at the 'Forks' up to the "Indian Village 'Awkelget,' 27 miles, runs through [redacted] Canón. "The works [redacted] be [redacted] heavy, but some exceedingly [redacted] with "stiff gradients and [redacted] curves. From 'Awkelget' upwa [redacted] the "valley is favorable for [redacted] way construction, works would be [redacted] with easy grades for about 90 miles, to the summit bet [redacted] the waters "of the Wotsongqua and Intaquah, distant 300 miles from [redacted] Simpson, "and about 2,400 feet above sea level. Thence to the [redacted] of the "Nechaco," the works would be moderate, with easy grades."

One would infer from the foregoing description that in the [redacted] es between the "Forks" and Awkelget, the line would follow [redacted] Canón of the Wotsongqua. This would not be the case, the line would [redacted] ke higher ground upon terraces several hundred feet above the river level [redacted] no great difficulty would be encountered in a large proportion of the [redacted] es below Awkelget. Moreover, between the village of "Kitsigen [redacted] — situated 15 miles below the Forks of Skeena—and the [redacted] there is fairly level ground along the mountain bases, where the [redacted] would be quite moderate, and upon which a line can be carried with easy [redacted] ts up to a level entirely above the rough Canón of the Wotsongqua. [redacted] ve been over the ground, above and below the "Forks," and know that to be the case, so we must not assume the whole distance Mr. [redacted] refers to —27 miles—nor anything like it, to involve heavy work. [redacted] ever, acc [redacted] his estimate the balance of the distance to the Wotsong [redacted] n- [redacted] consists of [redacted] rate work with light [redacted] ts, for 90 miles [redacted]

From the Wotsongqua Summit [redacted] the 227th mile from Kitimat, there is [redacted] difficulty [redacted] works or [redacted] s, as far as the Stuart River (distance [redacted] miles.) [redacted] page 39, Mr. S. Fleming's Report for 1880.



will be about twenty (20) miles of heavy work, with grades in some places exceeding one per hundred, the balance will be moderate to light. (*Vide* pages 53 and 61, Mr. S. Fleming's Report, 1880.)

From MacLeod Lake to "Pine Pass" Summit, the distance is forty (40) miles, of which about one-fifth involves heavy work, in addition to some deep cutting at the approaches to the River "Parsnip," the balance will be of medium character, and grades not in excess of one per hundred. (*Vide* pages 52 and 53, Railway Report, 1880.) The "Pine Pass Summit is at the 437th mile from "Kitimat."

Mr. Cambie travelled from Hudson's Hope to Pine River, which he came upon 95 miles east from the summit. Of the portion he saw, seven miles are described as heavy. He also refers to the necessity for some protective works at a few precipitous points upon the river, but apart from these, he saw no serious obstructions, and anticipates none as far as the "Lower Forks," 75 miles east from Pine Pass Summit.

Mr. MacLeod describes the next section, *i. e.*, from the "Lower Forks" of Pine River, eastward to Smoky River, a distance of 139 miles. He estimates that in this portion there may be, perhaps, 20 miles of heavy work, the balance light and moderate. (*Vide* pages 64 and 65, Mr. S. Fleming's Report, 1880.)

Between Smoky River and Lesser Slave Lake, no member of the Peace River Expedition took the direct line, Mr. H. Cambie having strayed to the south-east, while Mr. MacLeod diverged purposely towards the Athabasca River. The former, however, travelled over the trail between Slave Lake and Peace River, a distance, he estimates to be 55 miles. Mr. Cambie anticipates however no difficulties whatever, between the points in question. The estimated distance is 60 miles.

From the western end of Lesser Slave Lake, the line would follow the south shore to its outlet, descend Slave River, and cross the Athabasca, on a direct line for Lac La Biche, or some point slightly south of it. Mr. Cambie saw nothing of this section. I did however, in 1872, and from Mr. Gordon's cursory observations regarding the low flat land adjacent to Little Slave River, and his account of the country from the Athabasca Landing eastward, it is certain that the works throughout will be of very moderate character.

Between the Athabasca and the meridian of Lac La Biche, there

access

of rather poor soil, but the  
The estimated distance from  
to Lac la Biche is about 200  
favorable for railway construction. A  
can be effected anywhere, the waterway would  
A very large proportion of the land in this section is  
and the growth of wheat.

between Lac la Biche and Livingston, the distance, hand-  
all for deviations, is 470 miles, over a gently undu  
country, which for the greater portion is better adapt  
agricultural purposes than any on the Saskatchewan. In this connec-  
tion, the reports of Messrs. M. Smith, O'Keefe, Eberts, and  
King, in regard to agricultural capabilities, may be of in

The first in speaking of this large section  
at page 47, Report of 1878. Following up the valley of the Swan  
"about 80 miles, the line would take a direct course for the S  
"near Fort a la Corne." "The land in the Valley of the River  
"is reported by the Surveyors to be very rich and of considera  
"tent: the soil on the Basquia Hills is also reported good; wh  
"belt between these hills and the Saskatchewan, extending from the  
"Prince Albert settlement, above the Grand Forks, down to the Old  
"Fort, a distance of over 90 miles, is exceedingly rich land

"From the Saskatchewan, the line would be nearly direct  
"foot of the Lesser Slave Lake, skirting the north side of the  
"Hills, on the water shed of the Beaver River and passing south  
"end of Lac la Biche or Red Deer Lake. Low ranges of hills skirt the  
"north bank of the Saskatchewan from a point a few miles from the Fort  
"Carleton nearly to Victoria; these are partially covered with grass  
"aspen and willow; the soil is generally light, but is well supplied  
"streams of clear water; the pasturage is good, especially in the  
"neighbourhood of Fort Pitt."

"Between these hills and the River the soil is generally sandy,  
"and there are numerous salt alkaline lakes, but immediately  
"the hills, the soil is still the of the Hudson  
"any, to the good. There are numerous fresh water  
"around the white hills."



"Factor at the Fort, who has spent many years in this district. An Excursion was also made from Fort Pitt to Lac La Biche. The south slope of the Moose Hills, where the trail runs, is covered with a dense grove of aspen; but in crossing the west end of these hills, a magnificent prospect opened out. Stretching away to the east, north and west, as far as the eye could reach, there appeared a vast, undulating, grassy plain, rising in places into softly rounded hills, dotted and intersected with groves and belts of aspen mixed with spruce and tamarac and clumps of willows. This appears to have been formerly forest, which has probably been destroyed by fire, decayed trunks of large trees being found on the hill sides. In the hollows, however, there is sufficient timber left for railway and domestic purposes. The altitude, taken at several points, averages about 1,700 feet above the sea level."

"During three days, whenever the trail was left, great difficulty was found in forcing a way through thick masses of grass and pea-vine, three to four feet in height, and sometimes reaching nearly to the horses' backs. As Lac La Biche was neared, the country became more wooded, and the track lay through long glades between belts of poplar and willows, passing a number of small fresh water lakes."

"There is a Roman Catholic Mission at Lac la Biche, where they produce excellent wheat, barley, oats and all kinds of vegetables; there are about 40 families settled round the Lake, chiefly half-breeds, engaged in the fur trade, and only cultivating enough of cereals and vegetables for their own use. Between this point and the Lesser Slave Lake, the Line crosses the River Athabasca. This country has not been explored for the Railway."

"The line would follow either the south or north shore of Lesser Slave Lake, as might be determined by the Surveys. After passing that lake, it enters on a vast region of great fertility, extending far northward on both sides of the Peace River, and westward to Pine River, which falls into the Peace near Fort St. John."

"By this route, what is termed the fertile belt, or wheat-producing country, extends nearly three hundred miles farther to the west before the Rocky Mountains are reached than by the route over the Yellowhead Pass; a corresponding reduction being made in the breadth of sterile country to be crossed in the Rocky Mountain district."

The total length of line just described, from Kitimat to Livingston, is 1,381 miles.

From English Bay, Burrard Inlet, to the same point (Livingston), the measured distance is 1,281 miles. Thus, there is a difference of 100 miles in favour of the southern route.\*

\* NOTE.—The reader should read carefully the reports of Messrs. McLeod and Cambie. Railway Report of 1880.



A line from Port Simpson, via the Kotsine Pass, and  
be some 30 miles longer than  
"Pass" route is, notwithstanding its  
though being 70 miles longer than the  
"Pass," its construction would be less costly,  
at much more moderate, and it would open up a  
cultivable and pastoral land. We shall, therefore,  
on to the "Pine Pass" route, and for a comparison  
"Pass" and Peace River Line, the reader is desired  
and Appendix No. 5, of Mr. Fleming's Report  
1880, which, under the writer's examination, during the summer  
of 1879, is given, in 1880.

At page 8 of the last Railway Report, Mr. Fleming states a  
comparison of the Port Simpson, Peace River; Port Simpson,  
River; and Port Simpson, Yellow Head routes. They are represented  
there as being, respectively, 150 miles, 255 miles, and 225 miles longer  
than the Burrard Line. With all due deference to that gentleman, I  
am obliged to differ from him in this matter. The comparison is unfair,  
Fort Saskatchewan, the point to which those lines are referred,  
being properly common to all, and certainly not being on the "Pine"  
or "Peace" River lines.

Taking Livingston as the common point for all, the real difference  
between Port Simpson lines, via Peace and Pine Rivers, and the  
Burrard route, is, respectively, 100 miles and 170 miles, while from  
"Kitimat," the actual difference is further reduced to 30 miles and 100  
miles, in the respective cases, as before shown.

Giving to the southern, Burrard Line, then, its undoubted advantage  
in distance (100 miles) over the Pine River route, we shall institute a  
rough comparison of the engineering features pertaining to each  
two lines now in discussion.

Between Livingston and the Yellow Head Pass, a distance of 771  
miles, there are 150 bridges, 150 structures of beams and dry racks,  
some of which are of very great magnitude. Probably, two crossings  
the Saskatchewan, and those of Eagle Creek, the Pembina, MacLeod,  
Athabasca, Assiniboine Rivers, the length of waterways varying from  
10 feet to 100 feet. The approaches to these are also very difficult, in  
some cases involving excessive excavations.

There are also 2425 feet of tunnelling near the Yellow Head Pass. Between the Yellow Head Pass and Fort Moody (492 miles), there is an aggregate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of tunnelling, and there are also 174 bridges with spans varying from 40 to 275 feet. The gradients are, however, kept within the maximum of one per hundred. Between Yellow Head and the village of Yale (403 miles), fully 70 per cent. of the distance will entail very heavy work, and in the portion now under contract (125 miles), the work throughout is excessively heavy, and will cost at least \$100,000 per mile, equal, for that insignificant distance, to \$12,000,000. For half the distance between Yale and Port Moody, the work is classed as heavy. In the whole distance between the Yellow Head and Port Moody (492 miles), there will be more than 320 miles of heavy work. The cost of this British Columbian section, from Rocky Mountain Summit (Yellow Head Pass), to the sea, is estimated, or rather underestimated, at thirty-two million dollars.

Taking up the latest Reports of Messrs. Cambie and MacLeod, we gather that upon the "Kitimat, Pine Pass" route, from a point on the Skeena, opposite the Kitsumkallum River, *via* Hazelton, the Wotsonqua Valley, and the Pine River Pass, to the last named summit of the Rocky Mountains, those gentleman estimate that there are about seventy-five (75) miles of heavy work.

The corresponding section upon the southern line, as already shown, gives 320 miles of heavy work.

Between the Pine River Pass and the Smoky River, they report 80 miles of heavy work, including three miles of heavy excavation on each side of the last named stream. From Smoky River, eastward, to the meridian of Lac La Biche, a distance of 260 miles, the country is generally so favorable, that the proportion of heavy work upon that section is but trifling. The streams to be crossed upon this route, are fewer than upon the southern line, and far less difficult to bridge, the principal among them being the Athabasca (600 to 700 feet), the Smoky River (750 feet), the accent Échaland (300 feet), the Mud (400 feet), the Pine (500 feet), the Parsnip (600 feet), the Stewart, (600 feet). Between Lac La Biche and Livingston, (470 miles,) the country is, according to the best authority, quite as favorable, probably more so, than the corresponding portion west from Livingston, upon the southern line.

Taking the mileage upon the respective routes, from Rocky Moun-



Summit

...ulating the heavy work given  
... final that upon the Burrard

Work @ \$75,000	\$21,000,000
Moderate " 50,000	8,650,000
	\$29,650,000
... Kitimat Pine Pass" line.	
Work @ \$75,000	\$5,625,000
" " " " 50,000	18,100,000
	\$23,725,000

Giving a difference of \$3,925,000, in favour of the north  
Pine Pass Line. But on the other, there are, at the lowest calculation,  
20 miles in the valley of the Kitimat, and 90 miles in that of the  
Songqua, 110 miles in all, far easier to construct than the light  
of the Frazer River line, so that we may safely assume the total cost of the  
northern, British Columbian section (437 miles) at twenty-two million  
or say a difference of ten millions dollars, between the two lines.  
The reader can here turn to page 57, Appendix E, Railway Report of 1878,  
for Mr. Cambie's estimates of cost.

It is not so easy to form comparisons of cost from Rocky Mountain  
Summit, eastward to the common point, Livingston, as no systematic  
examinations have yet been made east from Lesser Slave Lake. It is,  
however, certain that the northern line will be found quite as easy of  
construction, probably far more so, than the southern, owing to the fact  
that east from the Smoky River to Livingston, the general profile of the  
country is more uniform than on the southern line, and that there are  
fewer streams to cross, and only one crossing of the Canadian River  
necessary.

Page 48, of 1878, March 18th says of the  
features of the northern line via Pine Pass:—

"It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the cost of  
construction without surveys, but the explorations across the Rocky  
Mountains show that a great reduction can be made in the rock  
and earth excavations by the line through Pine River Pass as compared  
with the line by the Yellow Head Pass. On the Summit there will



" be about eight miles of heavy work. On the West side of the pass to the point of junction of the two lines the works will be very light, and the cost probably not more than half that on the other line, mile for mile.

" The bridging on both lines will be rather heavy in the central or prairie region and on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, but the number of very large structures will be much greater on the southern than on the northern route.

" *On the whole, the cost of the works of construction on this route may be safely estimated, so far as our examination extends, as very considerably below that on the other route.*"

An examination of the latest reports shows that, with the exception of a few miles on the section between "Stewart" and "MacLeod" Lakes, and at the approaches to the Smoky River, the grades can be kept within a maximum of one per hundred, while the features of the country passed by the northern line are so favorable, compared with the southern route, that curvature will probably be far less, at least within the Rocky Mountain and Cascade Zone, *i. e.*, upon the Pacific Slope.

From tide water, at the head of Douglas Arm, to Livingston, the general profile of the northern line is the most remarkable upon the North American continent. In the 625 miles west from the Smoky River, there are only four summits, ranging, in altitude, from 2,400 feet to 2,750 feet above sea level. The "Pine Pass" summit is placed at an elevation of 2,800 feet, an estimate which I have reason to think slightly in excess of the reality.

Having now compared to some extent the engineering features of the two lines, the capabilities for settlement—a matter of exceeding importance—of the regions traversed by the rival routes, demand investigation. On the southern line, from Livingston to the River Pembina—some fifty miles west from Edmonton—which may be set down as the western limit of the good, agricultural land on that parallel, there is a fair proportion of land fit for settlement and pastoral purposes.

On the northern route, between Livingston and the meridian of the Pembina River, the whole country, with the exception of a small portion near the Athabasca, is well adapted for settlement. [*Vide* reports of Messrs. Marcus Smith, O'Keefe, Eberts, Macoun King and others.] At Lac La Biche, wheat has been for many years an unfailling crop; tobacco has also been very successfully raised.

Indeed, an inspection of the reports of the above named gentlemen,

four

leads to the inevitable conclusion that the line of settlement in 1874, passes through a settlement, to that south of the North line. The amount of good land is as great, while wood for fuel is more abundant, fresh water lakes of more extent, and in the aspect of the country more prepossessing, and its position is more favorable to the southern line.

The country upon the southern line, between Lake St. Ann (a few miles from the Pembina,) and the Rocky Mountains, MacLeod describes in the following strain. [See page 202, 1877]:—

"The soil is principally heavy clay, and in places, sandy. Frequent rains, not being permitted to sink into the ground, by the compactness of the clay, form a very large area of muskeg. There are a few places where the soil in the muskegs is better."

Ice has been seen in the muskegs referred to by Mr. MacLeod, during the month of August. The Reverend George Graham, author of "Ocean to Ocean," remarks of this region, at page 193:—"The country is scrubby timber, the land cold and hungry." Idem at page 200: "Brush with decided autumnal tints," August 31, '72. "Country of a decided pines-tricken look." "Miles of muskeg."

The reverend gentleman was decidedly right. The country between the Pembina River and Jasper House is cold and clayey, and covered with muskeg for long stretches. Its altitude varies from 1,000 feet to 3,400 feet above sea. It is, as expressed years ago in "The Pacific," "cold, swampy, and unfitted for settlement."

The distance from Lake St. Ann, the western limit of the good land or fertile belt upon the southern line, to Jasper House, is about 100 miles.

From Jasper House to a point near Kamloops—nearly 200 miles—the country is totally unfit for settlement. I have never traveled over this section, but shall quote from authentic sources. Mr. George Keefer, of Mr. Flen's engineering party, at page 100 of the Pacific Railway Report of 1878:—"In the Pembina River valley, 'but in the 12 months, the country is even less wooded than that could be found upon as exempt from frosts, but few fields could be raised in the locality. The amount of arable land in the valley of the Pembina River is so small that it is hardly ever likely to be taken into consideration.'"



Mr. Marcus Smith says at page 45, Report of 1878:—

“ From the Pembina River across the Rocky Mountains to a point near Kamloops—420 miles—is totally unfit for settlement. There is another length of 100 miles in the canyons of the Thompson and Frazer in a similar condition. So that from the River Pembina, on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, to the proposed terminus at Port Moody, a distance of 679 miles, there are 520 miles on which there is no land fit for settlement, and on the balance most of the land of any value is taken up; in all this distance, therefore, there will scarcely be an acre within 60 to 100 miles of the line at the disposal of the Government for Railway purposes. The works, moreover, will be generally heavy and costly.”

The Reverend George Grant says at pages 292 and 321 of “ Ocean to Ocean : ”—

“ Were we to judge from what we have seen of the country along the Frazer and Thompson Rivers, the conclusion would be forced on us that British Columbia can never be an agricultural country.” But the greater part of the mainland is a *Sea of Mountains*, and the province will have to depend on its other resources for any large increase of population.” (*Idem* at page 321.) “ The little that we saw of the mainland of British Columbia, does not warrant us to say much about it as a field for emigrants.”

The discussion of the agricultural capabilities of British Columbia, will be resumed further on. We shall at present return to the Eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Between Lac la Biche and the western extremity of Lesser Slave Lake, there may be, perhaps, 25% of poor soil, but from the latter, westward to the “ Middle Forks ” of Pine River, a distance of 225 miles, the northern line will pass through a highly favoured portion of the North-West. Some years ago, when I mooted the project of the Pine River Pass route, I was, to a certain extent, aware of the great dissimilarity between the lands on each route. Now, I am able to quote from other reliable sources, from entirely disinterested persons, and from Mr. Macoun, a strong partisan of the southern line, who, despite his predilection cannot speak otherwise than in the most extravagant terms of the Peace River region.

At page 113 of Mr. S. Fleming's Report for 1880, Doctor Dawson thus defines the boundaries of the southern portion of the Peace River country:—“ With the ‘ Middle Forks ’ of the Pine River (only fifty miles east from the summit of the Rocky Mountains, in latitude  $55\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N.), as a western limit, the region now to be described may be considered as bounded to the north by the 57th parallel to its intersection eastward



the boundary may be assumed to run northward to the mouth of Heart Brook, near the Smoky River. Thence to run south-eastward to the Peace River, to follow the western border of the Peace River, to the south of the lake, to the Athabasca River; thence to run north-westward to the first mentioned point on the Athabasca westward to the foot-hills, skirting the Athabasca westward to the first mentioned point on the Athabasca. The tract included in the above limits has an area of about 23,500 square miles, and by far the greater portion of the tract may be considered as fertile.

The above definition of boundaries agrees, so far as it goes, with those given by myself at page 228, "Canada on the Pacific." Dawson goes on to say:—"The soil of this district may be described as a fine silty loess, similar from the loess-like material constituting the soil of the Peace River Valley in Manitoba. Indicated by its natural vegetation, its fertility is great. The tract of prairie land west of the Smoky River may be about 23,500 square miles. The total area of land with soil suitable for agriculture, may be estimated as, at least, 23,500 square miles. The luxuriance of the natural vegetation in these Peace River prairies is truly wonderful, and indicates not only fertility, but also sufficient rainfall. It may be stated at once that the ascertained facts leave no doubt on the subject of the sufficient length and warmth of the season to ripen wheat, oats and barley, the only point which may be a question being: to what extent the occurrence of late and early frosts may interfere with growth."

Professor Selwyn says, at page 62, Geological Report of 1879:—"I consider it a region (the Peace River country, Fort St. John,) far fitter for settlement than much of the Saskatchewan country." We are now in the midst of September (1879). The thermometer has only once reached 32° Fahrenheit. As a contrast it will be seen in my Report upon the Saskatchewan country in 1878, that in the region about Edmonton and Victoria, two degrees farther south, and about the same elevation, the thermometer fell, on the 4th September, to 28°; on the 6th, to 24°; on the 11th, to 20°; and again to 16° on the 13th of the 23rd. At page 10, Professor Selwyn says:—"The same fine loess country covered with the richest vegetation, astonishingly fertile, and (see page 11) the soil and climate are better here. Atop the Peace River, no hesitation in saying that the river is probably the best respect the best interest of the Railway and of the country at large. It will be found that by 'Pine River Pass,' the line could be carried almost the whole distance, through a magnificent, agricultural and pastoral country."

Mr. John Macoun, botanist, says at page 154 of the Geological

Report of 1875. He is speaking of the country near St. John's on the Peace River. "25th July, 1875. The oats stood five feet high. For nine miles the distance travelled, the country was covered with the most luxuriant vegetation. It would be folly to attempt to depict the appearance of the country, it was so much beyond what I ever saw before. The soil must be exceedingly rich to support such a growth year after year, and the early summer temperature must be high, for the vegetation to be so far advanced at this period. All the cultivation at St. John is on the terrace, immediately above the spring flood level, *but there is no reason why cereals should fail on the plateau above as the soil is there, if anything, better.* I never witnessed such an astonishing growth of herbaceous plants. The *flora* of this region is almost identical with that of Ontario. The winter is actually shorter on Peace River than in Manitoba, and the record shows, that, twelve hundred miles north-west from Fort Garry, a milder temperature prevails in autumn than at that point."

In his Report of 1874, Mr. Macoun, also, remarks:—"I am satisfied that wheat will succeed here (Lesser Slave Lake), as I think there is a higher summer temperature here than at Edmonton. What I saw of the Peace River country (at least a distance of 200 miles), was the best land I had seen anywhere. Here is a strip of country, over 600 miles in length, and at least 100 miles in breadth, containing an area of 60,000 square miles, which has a climate in no way inferior to that of Edmonton."

"Regarding the quality of the soil throughout the entire region, my note-book is unvarying in its testimony. It was principally clay loam, five feet in depth where exposed, but owing to the clay sub-soil, it is practically inexhaustible."

On referring to the reports of Messrs. H. J. Cambie and D. M. Gordon, we find that, despite preconceived ideas and strongly prejudiced though they were in favour of the route *via* the Yellow Head Pass, those gentlemen are perforce unable to speak but in the highest terms of the Peace River country. One little bug-bear they did find, and they endeavoured to make the most of it. The country would be perfect but for the nocturnal summer frosts which are experienced occasionally. They found wheat growing well in the bottom of the Peace River Valley, 600 feet below the general altitude of the country, and, because they saw no crops on the plateau (no one has yet settled there), they fancy that wheat culture there will be a failure, the cause being, as they say, a colder temperature upon the plateau than in the valley below. Had they taken simultaneous observations for temperature on plateau and in valley, they would probably have found on clear, calm nights, preceded by strong westerly winds (the occasions when those frosts usually



...the bottom of the deep valley than ... consequently, colder air being beneath. ... be the case, low bottoms being generally ... than higher land. The difference of altitude in ... is sufficiently great to bring into operation the general law, ... temperature decreases in inverse ratio to the ... of ... fact, frosts rarely injure vegetation, unless ... air and ... with moisture, and the Peace River country is pr ... ally dry ... in the State of Minnesota, the mercury ... times falls to 20° F. below zero without doing injury.

Speaking of **Hudson's Hope**, Mr. Cambie says of the ... :—  
 "It was said ... there, that the frost was confined to the ... valley, and did not extend to the plateau."

Mr. Gordon, who never left the beaten trail, remarks at page ...  
 Railway Report, 1880:—

"It might, therefore, be premature to pronounce ... the most ... fertile portions of this plateau suitable for the growth of grain ... various considerations seem to warrant the conclusion that ... conditions are not less favourable on the plateau than in the ... Frost sometimes occurs in the valley, when not felt on the plateau."

Doctor Dawson, an unprejudiced person, and a better authority, ... remarks at page 117, Railway Report, 1880:—"In my diary of September 5th, I find the following entry:—"Aspens and berry bushes ... the Peace River Valley now looking quite autumnal; on the plateau ... 800 ft. higher, not nearly so much so. This difference appears to be ... actual." In October, 1872, Mr. Horetzky remarked the ... circumstance."

At page 9 of his last Report, Mr. S. Fleming remarks, with reference to the Peace River country:—"The explorations do not ... beyond question its adaptability for the systematic growth of ... cereals." Again, at page 10:—"No frost was experienced ... monoton in last August, a fact which suggests that the ... District cannot be considered equal to the Saskatchewan ... te."

page 1 ... he same ... rt, Doctor Dawson, in speaking of the Peace River country ... and ... on the ... chewan, says:—"The ..."



*"the climate of the Peace River is inferior to that of the region about Edmonton on the Saskatchewan."*

While on the subject of frosts, let us again refer to "Ocean to Ocean." At page 178, the author says, he is speaking of the region around Edmonton, on the Saskatchewan: "The remaining difficulty is the recurrence of summer frosts. These are dreaded more than anything else. At one place, in June or July; at another in August, sharp frosts have nipped the grain. At Edmonton there is invariably a night or two of frost, between the 10th and 20th of August. At Victoria and Fort Pitt, to the east, at St. Albert and Lake St. Ann, on the west, the grain has suffered more or less, frequently, from the same cause. This enemy is a serious one, for, against it man seems powerless. But, admitting to the full that there are such frosts, that no improvement will ensue on the general cultivation of the land, the draining of bogs, and the peopling of the country, other crops than wheat can be raised. It is only fair to the country to add that the power of these frosts to injure must be judged, not by the thermometer, but by actual experience. It is a remarkable fact that frost which would nip grain in other countries is innocuous on the Red River and on the Saskatchewan. Whatever the reason, the fact is undoubted."\*

To-day, despite the frosts, wheat succeeds to admiration at and around Edmonton, and elsewhere on the Saskatchewan, thus proving the groundlessness of the fears expressed by Mr. Fleming's Secretary in the foregoing quotations. Why, then, not apply the same arguments in the case of the Peace River country? Why lay such stress on the occurrence of frosts as experienced by Messrs. Cambie and Gordon? What applies in one case will, also, in the other. If the frosts do not injure wheat crops in one part of the North-West, they will not in another, possessed of a similar climate, and Doctor Dawson tells us that *the climate of the Peace River region corresponds exactly with that of the Saskatchewan*. Professor Selwyn is of the opinion that the Peace River is *even better adapted* for agriculture than the Saskatchewan; while Professor Macoun takes similar ground, and they all admit the superiority of the Peace River region in other respects. Why, wheat succeeds admirably at Fort Simpson and Fort Laird, in latitude 62°, four hundred miles further north than the portion of the Peace River country seen by Messrs. Cambie and Gordon, and, if I mistake not, samples of wheat grown near Lake Athabasca took a prize at the Philadelphia Exhibition. It is useless to pursue the argument further, the trivial objections raised by Messrs. Cambie and Gordon, must fall to the ground be

\*NOTE.—The reason is easily explained. The frost is innocuous owing to the extreme dryness of both soil and atmosphere.

neath the water, and when they advance in the bottom of the lake, one is inclined to doubt, if the investigation of a subject of such grave importance to the taxpayers in particular were altogether, the force has now been added to convince even the most mistake in the selection of the trans-continental route. It may be added, that the northern line opens up a system of navigation, from its crossing point upon the Athabasca River, to the "Mackenzie," the great lakes, the Fisheries, and the immense mineral regions of the Lower Athabasca and other streams.

Doctor Davidson tells us at page 112 of the last Report, 1880, that the Columbia region susceptible of cultivation in Columbia, is in that of the lower "Nechaco" basin. This region lies immediately south from, and adjacent to, the Pina River. Mr. Macoun speaks highly of this region, also, and here quote what he says of its soil and climate:—(Vide pages 35; Geological Report of 1875.)

"Looking back over the 146 miles which lie between Fort St. James and Quesnel, I am struck with the resemblance of the country to that of the forest region west of Lake Superior. There is not a trace in the whole distance which in any way indicates either an alpine or a boreal climate, except *Vaccinium myrtilloides* and *Empetrum nigrum*, and these were only observed once. The valley of the Nechaco is an exceedingly rich soil on both sides where the trail crosses, and this extends for many miles both above and below. The valley of Steward's River is not wide where we crossed it, but is very rich, and there is no doubt whatever, in my mind, but that where the two rivers unite, the valley all the way to Fort George is rich and fertile, and well suited for settlement. From the crossing of Steward's River to Fort St. James, the country was almost impassable, owing to constant rains, but the soil is rich, and grass and wheat were very luxuriant. The country around Lakes Tsin-kut, Ta-chi, and Nool-ki is very fertile, and from the occurrence of so much pine together the soil of the country to that of the Edmonton, I think the climate of the two regions would be much the same. The former is neither nor less elevated, and this, together with the wetness of the north end of the thermals in N. W. America more than the common one for the same latitude. The dry summer climate, which is indicated by the flora, is the rainfall to be considered,



"and, therefore, the prospects are good for the successful cultivation of grain."

Westward from that fertile piece of country, the northern line will open up 90 miles of the Wotsongva Valley, which Mr. H. Cambie describes as such a fine pastoral region, and even fit for agriculture, but for the "bug-bear," the summer frosts, so that it can be claimed for the northern route, that it will open up as much fertile country on the Pacific slope, as its southern rival—which is not much to boast of.

It has been shown by the evidence of Mr. Fleming's engineers, that the Fraser and Thompson river valleys offer but a trifling quantity of agricultural land. The Reverend George Grant—Mr. Fleming's Secretary on his overland journey in 1872—tells us very plainly that British Columbia is not an agricultural country, that it is a *Sea of Mountains*, and ill-calculated to attract immigration, in fact, the exodus of whites during the last fifteen years, has greatly exceeded immigration during the same period. Let us now examine some further testimony bearing particularly upon the "rich lands," recently alleged by the *Mail* and *Globe* newspapers, to be available for settlement upon the Burrard Inlet route.

In the leading article of the *Mail* of 6th May last, an extract from which has already been given on the first page of this paper, we are told:

"The main advantage in adopting the Burrard Inlet route, particularly as opposed to the northern or Port Simpson route, has been, and will still further be found to be, in the expediency of the present route for colonization purposes, for opening up the best western lands, and for facilitating progress into the prairie country. The opening up of the Canons of the Fraser to which Mr. Blake so strongly objects, will, it is alleged, on the fullest and best evidence, give up a large area of fine wheat lands to prospecting settlers. There can be no doubt that the adoption of the Burrard Inlet route, for all the purposes of settlement, agriculture, trade, and the peaceful growth of a great region, has been wise."

The *Globe* ranted even more wildly during the last Session of Parliament, much to the delight and astonishment of the Fraser River partisans. Now, every sensible man felt at the time that those organs spoke rashly, and with but a glimmering of truth to bear out their assertions. Where are those fertile areas? Whose evidence is the fullest and best? It must have been highly interesting to hear honorable members from the Mainland of the "Sea of Mountains," descant, no doubt most



eloquently  
ver

ing settlers. Why, under the contract, i.e. between Yale and hundred acres of arable, cultivable or harrow. I shall here quote from 1875-76, pages 114, 116, 120, 121, of the date:—

of the lower Frazer, for agricultural purposes, may be mass; but there are numbers of small is where be done on a limited scale as far up as F. be. Be- int the valley becomes confined between mountains, and ss upon the river, that, before reaching Y. e travel a canon is, and the mind is tortured v. e thought what happen if anything went wrong with the e or its machinery.

"The lower Frazer valley has along its left or south a range of low rocky to from Langly to the mouth of the River; and to the south of these, between them and the the Cascades before me, lies the Sumass prairie. Near the middle of this prairie lies the lake of the same name, a long and four broad in its widest part. During the season of flood it extends from hill-foot to hill-foot, and even after the subsidence of the waters its mud banks or beaches reach certain points on both. The larger half of the prairie is at the south-west end of the lake and is about four miles square."

"The prairie ground at the north-east end of the lake is bounded by a belt of trees, separating it from the clear or prairie ground on the banks of the Chilukweyuk River. The clear ground on both of this river has been apparently formed, partly by the repeated fires destroying the trees, which at one time grew on the high, and partly by the action of the floods which annually sweep a large portion of it. These prairies have, during the season of flood, very much the appearance of immense lakes, being, with the exception of a higher ridge here and there, almost entirely covered by water. When the water subsides the growth on these low grounds and plains is most astonishing, reminding one of the luxuriance of the tropics, with- out its peculiar vegetation."

"On the afternoon of the 18th, I started on foot, expecting a conference to me a day me to Bar that evening. As I went along the river, now a steep climb down a canon in season of crevasses, the Indians were their g to loc, but addressing a word of gaze for a sh and d. On the slipping rocks along the road I obtained the fruiting specimens of many mosses, prominent amongst

" which were *Bryum crudum* and *albicans*, and another unknown to me, "  
 " *Polytrichum strictum* was in fine fruit, and various species of *Grimmia*. "  
 " *Racomitrium*, *Mnium*, *Orthotrichum*, *Hypnum* and many others well re- "  
 " paid me for my trouble. The *Alsia abietina* was very abundant at "  
 " times, and the damp faces of many rocks were covered with beautiful "  
 " *Hepatiæ*. The only flowering plants of any note were *Arnica cordifolia* "  
 " and *Smilacina uniflora*, which were not uncommon. A few miles on "  
 " the Yale side of Boston Bar we turned the point of the mountain, and "  
 " almost immediately the plants showed a change in the quantity of "  
 " moisture, and, on looking back, the eye at once detected the cause, in "  
 " the mountains acting as a barrier to keep out the superabundant "  
 " moisture of the Lower Frazer."

" Lytton is a poor, miserable place, only having three gardens in "  
 " the whole village. By utilizing the small brook which comes from the "  
 " mountains behind it, many fine vegetables could be raised, as the soil, "  
 " where not too much encumbered with stones, is good. Between "  
 " Jackass Mountain and Spence's Bridge *there is very little cultivable land*, "  
 " and this requires to be irrigated before good crops can be raised."

Doctor Dawson, at page 246, Appendix S, (Mr. S. Fleming's Report of 1877) says of the extent of cultivable land in British Columbia :—

" It is very difficult, with the information now accessible, to form "  
 " even an estimate of the quantity of arable land in the interior of British "  
 " Columbia. I have only seen a few parts of the southern portion of the "  
 " interior plateau, but judging from these, and facts obtained in other "  
 " ways, I am inclined to believe that *the cultivable land east of the Frazer is* "  
 " *probably in area less than 1,000 square miles*. It is to be remarked, how- "  
 " ever, that this area does not at all adequately represent the capacity of "  
 " the country to support a population, as a comparatively small patch of "  
 " arable land serves the stock-farmer, whose cattle roam over the "  
 " surrounding country. West of the Frazer, as far north as the Black- "  
 " water, the cultivable areas are very small. The so-called *Chilicotin* "  
 " *Plains lie too high for farming* and the available area in the valley of the "  
 " Chilicotin was roughly estimated by me in my report for 1875, at *7,000* "  
 " *acres only*. An area of 300 square miles might be perhaps taken as an "  
 " estimate of the farming land of this region. North of the Blackwater "  
 " is the *Lower Nechaco basin, already more than once referred to*. *The area* "  
 " *of this is probably about 1,000 square miles*. Bordering on Francois "  
 " Lake are considerable stretches of country not raised so much as 300 "  
 " feet above it, and, therefore, considerably below the 3,000 foot contour. "  
 " The soil is very fertile, and the vegetation much resembles that of the "  
 " *white silt* basin. Supposing this country to be suited to the growth of "  
 " barley, oats and the hardier root crops, which appears highly probable, "  
 " though no trials have of course been made, an area roughly computed "  
 " at about 200 square miles will be added."

The "cultivable land east of the Frazer," referred to in the above



location, as being "in area of 1,000 square miles," (the actual in the Thompson, Ontario,) is the only land fit for cultivation of the entire length of the line. It is, by Mr. S. Fleming's estimate, 180 miles from the Yellow Head Pass to the confluence of the Thompson—180 miles—the railway line is within the ranges, and there is no land fit for cultivation. At the meeting of the two branches of the Thompson, the hills are covered with "bunch" grass and the valley as the valley in many places still partakes of the character of the hills. Within 15 miles of the junction at Kamloops is scarcely, if any, land fit for settlement, a total of 240 miles of perfectly barren country, devoid even of minerals, for gold prospectors have, from time to time, thoroughly examined it. The largest tract of arable land in the valley is within the angle formed by the two branches and is occupied by an Indian mission.

At Kamloops the line may fairly be said to have reached the fertile zone lying between the Rocky and Cascade Mountains. This fertile zone is exceedingly limited as to extent, consisting principally of the interval land in the narrow valleys of the Thompson, Grand, Similkameen, Tulamene, Nicola, Buonaparte, Frazer, and connecting valleys.

Nearly all the good lands are taken up by speculation and but a small proportion is yet under cultivation. Nearly all those lands require irrigation, which, when obtainable, conduces to the production of abundant crops, as in the Utah Valley.

Although those arable lands vary in altitude from 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet above the sea, they do not suffer materially from summer frosts.

Such, in brief are the "fine wheat lands" which the construction of the most formidable 125 miles of railway in the world is to "open out for prospecting settlers." And here, let it be understood that the area just alluded to by me is embodied in the area of 1,000 square miles alluded to by Doctor Thompson; the latter form a portion of the balance being in the vicinity of Lac La Hache, Crowsnest, and along the upper part of the Thompson-road, and along the Frazer River, Soda Creek, and towards the north.



The grazing lands in the Kamloops section are, however, excellent, but not inexhaustible, for bunch grass when closely cropped gives place to sage and wormwood.

Mr. Sproat, a provincial authority, estimated the live stock in the Province in 1875 as follows:—35,000 horned cattle; 6,000 to 7,000 horses; 12,000 to 15,000 sheep; 10,000 hogs.

The total white population within this district, *i.e.*, from Yale upwards and eastward, that is to say, as far as Cariboo to the north, and Kootenay to the east, according to the Directory of 1874, was about 1,400, distributed as follows:—

Yale.....	60
On waggon-road between Yale and Lytton.....	25
Lytton.....	42
On waggon-road, Lytton to Ashcroft.....	20
Ashcroft.....	6
Cache Creek and vicinity.....	40
Clinton, see Lilloet Clinton District.....	00
On road, Clinton to Lac la Hache.....	10
Lac la Hache.....	20
Williams Lake and St. Joseph Mission.....	11
Deep Creek, Soda Creek and Alexandria.....	25
Quesnelle.....	60
River Trail, Williams Lake to Lilloet.....	224
Cariboo.....	524
Lilloet, Clinton District.....	250
Thompson River, Nicola Valley, Kamloops.....	170
Kootenay.....	108
Similkameen and Okanagan.....	90
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,423</b>

On the line of railway under contract, Yale to Kamloops (125 miles) (Directory, 1874), the white population is as under:—

Yale.....	60
On waggon-road, Yale to Lytton, 56 miles.....	25 Overestimated.
Lytton.....	42
On waggon-road, Lytton to Ashcroft... ..	20
Ashcroft.....	6
Cache Creek and vicinity.....	40
Thompson River and tributaries, including Kamloops.....	150
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>348</b>

It will be seen that the population has increased. That the population has been so limited as to have found their way to the interior as the population given in the census is by several dozens the figures in the census, with tolerable certainty, the actual present population is slightly in excess of the number given. There has been a large increase of population in the New Westminster District in the last few years. The population of the Frazer Valley before the war will be considerably further on.

A railway on the verge of a precipice for a distance of several miles, through mountain gorges in which no settlement can even be made, is not what is required to open communication between the interior and the seaboard. A passenger train, would do no business. A freight train, would transport the entire population, bag and baggage, farm produce and all and sundry, what would remain? Two streaks of rust and the right of way—a monument to Canadian folly.

Already there is in those canons as good a waggon-road as need be. A foot passenger upon that road may walk miles without meeting a team. In fact, the present road could be increased fifty-fold without sensible inconvenience. Therefore, the construction of a railway between Yale and Kamloops is an absurdity, that one may well pause to wonder at such a waste of money. In justice, however, let it be said that this matter has never yet been brought home to the full understanding of the masses directly interested. The people of Canada have been obliged to glean the little they know of this subject from unreliable newspaper reports, and from the official reports of the Railway Department, neither of which are trustworthy sources; and there are so many private interests involved, so many speculations depending for success upon the inauguration (though not necessarily upon the consummation) of this project, that it has not been possible to arrive at the truth; in fine, no one has been more misled, and more impudently so, than the public. But it is too late, and Canadians, as each year sees the rolls of ever increasing taxes, and an unbearable public debt, must resign themselves to the inevitable and



calmly await the financial ruin and political disintegration, which must result from such a railway policy.

Below Yale, the head of navigation on the Frazer River, and west of the Cascade Mountains, the total quantity of land fit for settlement eventually, has been estimated at 520,000 acres. How much there is of good land worth cultivating has not been yet ascertained with certainty, but it is estimated that about 10,000 acres are under cultivation, or more strictly speaking, under occupation, at the present time. Those lands are favourably situated, being pierced and partially surrounded by navigable waters. They are accessible all the year round from Victoria, or the coal mines of the Nanaimo District, where farm produce is in constant demand. Notwithstanding all those natural advantages, it is a strange fact that scarcely a bag of flour has ever been exported from the Frazer Valley. On the contrary, flour from San Francisco or Portland in Oregon, and bacon from Chicago is, or has until very recently, been imported for use in the interior. The cause of this is, doubtless, to be ascribed to the almost periodical inundation of this fine land by the high floods of the Frazer in Spring.

Mr. Marcus Smith in speaking of this District, at page 45, Report of 1878, says :—

“ Below Hope the valley begins to open up, and it becomes several miles wide, in places, before New Westminster is reached. The bottom flats are generally low and partly prairie land ; the river meandering through them is occasionally divided into channels or sloughs, forming numerous islands ; these are thickly clothed with cotton-wood, vine, maple, willow and other woods. There is good land on the higher benches, though but little wheat is grown in the district. The reasons for this, as given by the farmers, are :—The uncertainty of the weather during the harvest season, the alternate rains and hot sunshine causing the grain to grow in the ear before it can be housed ; and, further, that they find it more profitable to raise stock, coarse grains, hay, and fruit, and import their flour than to spend money in producing wheat, which, at best, would prove to be but an inferior article. The cattle are reared for the markets of New Westminster and Victoria ; the hay and oats are sent to the logging camps, and the fruit to the upper country.

“ The total area of land in the valley is estimated at a little over 500,000 acres : of this but a very small part is under cultivation, and it will require much labour and expense before any extensive increase can be obtained. The great bulk of the land that could be most easily brought under cultivation, lies on the estuary of the river below

the valley for Burrard Inlet; and most of the opposite side of the river to that on which the town of this land is subject to overflow from the Strait, and from high tides in the Strait.

Together, this is a very fine district, and in course of time considerable population; but it is obvious that the reclamation of low lying lands is not to be brought about by means of dykes, embankments, pumping machinery, and such other appliances as have been successfully used on the coast.

"Steamboats already ply between New Westminster and the coast (30 miles) twice a week each way, and would do so daily if there were sufficient traffic. These steamers stop at any point on the coast where desired for the collection of passengers or freight, however limited in number or quantity; and the amount of accommodation greater than is afforded by any railway. The amount of traffic which the valley could supply to a railway would be but limited, as its main purpose would be to go sea-wards, and four-fifths of the traffic, both of passengers and freight, which passes up into the interior is in connection with the Cariboo Gold Mines, for the necessities of whose development there must will ultimately, be found a shorter and better route from some point on the coast further north. On the whole, it does not appear that the prospects of a railway on this route are encouraging."

According to the certified list of 1876, the number of persons in this district was 587.

From the Victoria Directory of 1874 we gather that there were

Burrard Inlet.....	1	white.
New Westminster.....	1	
North Arm Frazer River.....	1	
South Arm " ".....	30	
Matsqui.....	22	
Sumass.....	39	
Chilliwack.....	1	
On Frazer above New Westminster.....	2	
Langley.....	46	
Boundary and S.....	21	
Hope.....	29	

Total 621

A statement from the census of 1871 states that the district of New Westminster (see also Burrard Inlet and Frazer Mouth lists) returns a population of 1,292 whites, 27 Chinese, 87 coloured; natives, no returns, say 300. Total, with natives, 1,650."



It thus appears that the population of 1871 exceeded that of 1874. The lists may be erroneous, in any case, the population is exceedingly scanty.

As Mr. Smith truly says, it is not a railway that is required to bring about prosperity to this district, but dykes, pumping machinery, etc., and, in the central plateau, branch roads, the improvement of the waggon road, and such public works as are, in actual justice, required for such a sparse population and limited area of agricultural lands. To this end it is not necessary to build a railway 125 miles in length, costing \$12,000,000.

As has been remarked, on a preceding page, half the mileage between Yale and Port Moody is classified by the Engineers as heavy. The distance is 90 miles, alongside the navigable waters of the Frazer; of course, the intention is ultimately to carry the railway to Burrard Inlet, so to complete the grand trans-continental route, and build up a great city at Burrard Inlet, if possible.

From a point on the Frazer River in the vicinity of Sumass, the distance to Coal Harbour, Burrard Inlet, is about 40 miles. The works will be very heavy along some portions of this piece of road. From Coal Harbour to Cape Flattery the distance is 150 miles, including some very intricate and dangerous navigation according to the authority of Commander Pender, who, at page 300 of S. Fleming's Report for 1877, says:—"For reasons given in No. 27, Burrard Inlet is, in my opinion, preferable to either of the other places named; but even here the risks attending the navigation of large steamships, against time, amongst the islands lying between Fuca Straits and the Strait of Georgia, are, to me, very great."

Other naval authorities admit that the approaches to Burrard Inlet from the Straits of Fuca involve more or less intricate navigation, and that the San Juan group of islands, commands those approaches.

Admiral DeHorsey says:—"The tortuous channel from Burrard Inlet to sea, through Haro Strait, will frequently be unsafe on account of the strength of the tide, great prevalence of fog and absence of anchoring depth. Burrard Inlet itself also, although possessing a safe port in Coal Harbour, and a good anchorage in English Bay has these objections, viz.:—that the narrow entrance to Coal Harbour through the First Narrows is hardly safe for large steamers, in consequence of the rapidity of the tide, and that English Bay, although affording good anchorage, would not, in my opinion, be smooth enough during

wharves, there being a drift of

many navigators have stated their belief, frequency of dense fogs in the Georgian Gulf than in this connection, I may not inaply quote from King's latest report, in which Doctor Daws

where stated that fogs do not seem to occur such in the vicinity of the Queen Charlotte Islands as in the southern part of Georgia. La Perouse, the great navigator, wrote: "I first thought these seas more than those which separate Europe and America, but I have been greatly mistaken to have irrevocably embraced the opinion. The fogs of New Scotia, Newfoundland and Hudson's Bay are an incontestable eminence from their constant density."

Captain John Devereux, at page 308, Railway Report of 18

"Burrard Inlet has a safe and commodious anchorage (2) miles inside the first narrows at Coal Harbour, also another (7) miles inside the second narrows at Port Moody: but, there is one great objection to either of these places, viz.: both the first and second narrows, respectively, are, but about a cable and a-half through which the tide runs about nine knots an hour, creating whirls and eddies, rendering it unsafe for large steamers to enter the port at night, or at certain stages of the tide, leaving out all mention by fogs and thick weather, which occur more frequently inside than out."

"At English Bay, at a place marked on the chart as Governor's reserve, is a good anchorage, with every facility to construct break-water and wharves, and by erecting a light-house on the Island, one on East Point, one on Twin Point and another on Discovery Island, the largest ships might be conducted thither with safety; but there are three months in the year, viz.: from part of August to part of November, when this coast is subject to dense fogs, rendering it unsafe, if not utterly impossible, to navigate the Strait and the Gulf of Georgia with large steamers, such as the Pacific Mail, Canadian and Pacific Mail Co.'s ships."

"It is will, be confirmed by all now anything ships and rafts in on, when the tide runs from to six knots per hour, boiling and overfalls, narrow channels and out reefs. The fogs are so dense here that land cannot be seen at a hundred yards off."



point on Puget Sound known as "Holme's Harbour." The length of this line would be about 66 miles. It would cost very much less than that portion of the Canadian road terminating at Coal Harbour, and the terminus would be at a magnificent harbour within easy distance of Cape Flattery, say 85 miles. The navigation is unparalleled, being perfectly free from danger, and ships can reach this point without towage. This harbour is situated under the lee of Whidby Island, U. S. Territory, and the intention is to cut a canal two miles in length across the neck of land separating this port from the waters of Admiralty Inlet. The citizens of the United States are quite alive to the importance of the matter, and regard this place as the natural outlet of Canadian Pacific traffic, *via* the Frazer River. And they are perfectly right. Freight will follow the most economical route. From Sumass to Cape Flattery, *via* Holme's Harbour, the distance will be 151 miles. Between the same points, *via* the Burrard route, the distance is 190 miles. In the former case, *ra i* freights will be lower than on the expensive road to Coal Harbour, while rates of insurance, towage and pilotage will be very much less than on Canadian waters. The fact is undeniable, dispute it who may. Mr. Marcus Smith has already pointed it out in his Report of 1878.

But if further testimony be desirable, we have but to glance over Mr. S. Fleming's Report of April, 1880, wherein, at page 146, Major-General Moody, formerly Commander of the Royal Engineers in British Columbia, gives his. He is a strong partizan of the Frazer River line, and in a lengthy paper upon the railway question shows his clear perception of the inevitable tendency British and American commercial relations will have to co-mingle, and trade to gravitate towards the most favourable outlet.

"One must keep in mind that if Route III did not exist, the material interests, present and future, of this valuable south portion of British Columbia, from the seaboard to the Rocky Mountain range, would gravitate inevitably to the foreign branch lines of the United States' North Pacific Railway; such branches coming up from south to different points along the frontier, east and west of Cascade Range."

"The coast branch up from the future *great and important port of 'Holme's Harbour,'* (U.S.,) in the Straits of Georgia, to Semiahmoo Port (U.S.,) 45 to 50 miles, will reach to about 15 miles from New Westminster, and, as a matter of course, in the progressive interchange of trade and communications between the two nations, will extend to New Westminster.

"And

each a point higher up

in mind, is to show the advantage of no such road ever to come into operation, and that such relations would be more tightly banded by the "great strain on the sense of duty," the mixed (loyal) would go over to the enemy. He adds:—  
"As above would not only be effectually connected, but, as before stated, additional gain in box."

In any case, however, the Americans will run a branch line to the "North Pacific" up to the frontier. Such is his deduction.

The probability is that the "Canadian Pacific," if ever it comes, will never be a success, for the reasons just given. The "Grand Trunk" is similarly doomed; at both ends long lengths of the line run upon United States soil, and for this deplorable condition of affairs we must blame the idiots who were intrusted with a duty well beyond their limited powers. As a matter of fact, every United States citizen who visits British Columbia, sees the country and investigates the way question, goes home with the idea firmly impressed upon his mind either that Canadians have too much money, or that their money is put it mildly, greatly in advance of the age. They laugh at the idea of a "canon railway."

At present the construction of the Pacific Railway Western Section is altogether premature. It should, and probably will, when Ontario and the Eastern Provinces wake up to a true conception of the gigantic fraud being perpetrated upon them, be deferred indefinitely. In any case, not a sod should be turned upon the western slope of the Rocky Mountains until the prairie section shall have reached the eastern confines of the Pacific Province. Until then, other works are of more vital importance to the Province than the gigantic and expensive toy to the Pacific. Columbia have been brought to heel, and should be entered upon with as much liberality as may be consistent with the dignity of Canada's purse strings. Every nerve should be strained to make amicable relations with the Pacific Province, but, to this end: not a cent, be what strict justice to the other Provinces dictates, should be abstracted from the pockets of the people.



A careful perusal of the foregoing pages must convince the most sceptical reader that the truth, and nothing but the truth, has been the writer's aim throughout. The battle of the routes has been waged at such odds, so many tongues have been tied, so many valuable reports suppressed, that the public has not hitherto been in a position to form any opinion as to their respective merits. No sane reader can entertain further doubt with regard to the preponderating merits (climatic and agricultural) of the country between Lac La Biche and the Pine River Pass, over that of the region west of Edmonton, upon the southern line. The best authorities have been appealed to, and they have spoken. With regard to that part of the southern line between Livingston and Edmonton, the following extracts from Surveyors' Reports (already given by a previous writer upon the same subject) will serve to convey the truth:—Those extracts are taken from the reports of the Department of the Interior.

“ To Fishing Lake (long.  $103\frac{1}{2}$ ) a distance of 19 miles. The soil throughout is good sandy loam, and most of the timber of useful dimensions.”

“ To Big Quill Lake (long.  $104\frac{1}{2}$ ) a distance of 32 miles. Well supplied with wood and water, having a soil-sandy loam of fair quality, lying between Quill Lake and the Touchwood Hills. The streams running into Quill Lake are fresh, whereas the lakes are strongly alkaline.”

Turning northward for 20 miles, to a point beyond the railway, the surveyor's line is reported thus:—

“ The first six miles are on the sandy alkaline strip between Big and Little Quill Lake. Some fair sized timber is found here, but the soil is poor; and continues so through a more open country, until within 8 miles of the C. P. R. line, when we encounter rising ground, densely wooded, with large poplar and numerous ponds.”

Turning westward on the 10th base, the survey proceeded at an average distance of about ten miles from the railway for a stretch of 180 miles. The Report of 1877, says of that line:—

“ The wooded and pond-country continues for about 27 miles, when the country becomes more open and inviting; and continues so to the 40th mile, when we gradually descend into an almost barren, rolling, alkaline, sandy plain. \* \* \* For about 24 miles the line runs through the same sandy, rolling plain. On the 13th mile we crossed the Canadian Pacific Railway line, where it deflects to the north, 2 miles south of an alkaline lake.”

the same survey line from

in making progress (for 108 miles) the want of wood and water, the country most destitute of both. On one section of it for the party, and wood for posts and fuel, in a distance of 32 miles. The soil on the part surveyed (32 miles), with the exception of some few miles, is of a poor nature, being light and sandy, and in fact none of the country between the 100th Meridian and the 110th which I turned northward (an interval of about one hundred miles), is of any use for agricultural purposes."

Turning northward at the end of the line just reviewed, the surveyor describes the country traversed (for 36 miles) thus:—

"Of a better nature than the 10th base; for though the soil is light, it is well watered, and the pasturage is excellent. It is, however, destitute of wood."

From Battleford to the 110th meridian, the line (75 miles in length) is reported thus:—

"The soil, generally, is exceedingly poor; and although improved a little in the immediate vicinity of Battleford, is even there very light and sandy. \* \* \* From the Meridian Ranges 18 miles to 19 to the 110th Meridian, the country is decidedly more fertile. For the first 30 miles there is a scarcity of wood, but water is abundant. Indeed as a rule this was the only country (in a course of over 300 miles) passed over, in which the water met with was not more or less alkaline. \* \* \* From the exceeding richness of the grasses, and the special fitness of the kinds produced, I am led to believe that it (a tract of 30 miles wide near the 110th Meridian) excels as a grazing country, anything I have seen in Manitoba or the North-West Territories."

"In summary of the foregoing and of other evidence on the subject it may be concluded that for 300 miles across the plains the adopted route, while presenting exceptions here and there, traversed a country of soils and other circumstances may be said in general to be well adapted for agricultural settlement."

Mr. M. Aldous, of the western special commission, says, of that part of the country between the 100th Meridian and Edmonton, at page 41 (Report of 1879), I am of the opinion that the country is well adapted for agricultural settlement:—

"In the whole distance surveyed between the 110th and 115th



"worthless land. \* \* \* The streams contain good clear water, and but few of the lakes or ponds are alkaline."

At page 45 of the same Report, Mr. A.P. Patrick, D. L. S., thus speaks of the country south from Battleford :—

"I left Battleford for the Forks of the Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers on the 6th August, 1878. The country passed over for the first thirty miles may be said to be fit for settlement, though the soil is light and wood scarce. From this point to the Forks (138 miles) the soil is fair but dry, and in my opinion unfit for farming, no wood, and water only to be found at great distances."

Mr. H. MacLeod, the Engineer who has been in charge of the Railway Surveys upon the prairie section, estimates the proportion of poor soil between Winnipeg and Lake St. Ann, to be nearly one-half. *Vide* Report of 1877.

With the exception then of the country between the Meridians of Fort Pitt and Lake St. Ann (225 miles) the region traversed by the now located Canadian Pacific Railway west from Livingstone, is of but a medium character, and very much of it quite open or treeless.

On the other hand, by the Northern or Pine Pass line, branching northwestward from Livingston *via* Fort à la Corne towards the Beaver River country and Lac la Biche, (some 470 miles) the country is nearly all fit for settlement. (*Vide* Surveyor-General's, Mr. Macoun's, Mr. Smith's, and W. F. King's reports.)

It may be as well to remind the reader that the above opinions were expressed by the writer several years ago. (*Vide* "Canada on the Pacific.")

It must strike every intelligent observer that, without actual surveys beyond the explorations in a general way which have been made of late years throughout the North-West, no very reliable estimates of the quantity of arable land available for settlement can be expected.

In 1872, Mr. Macoun accompanied the writer through a portion of the Peace River country. In 1875, Messrs. Selwyn and Macoun again saw a portion of the same region ; and in 1879, Doctor Dawson and his assistant had opportunities of examining very much more of its southern portion than any previous explorer. The last named gentleman is, therefore for that reason alone, if for no other, in a better position

to the soil, climate, and avail-

ough an Indian country, under the unavoidable (no doubt, but harassing withal) which constantly cannot be regarded as the basis of dogmatical assertions, arable or non-arable, available for settlement. It is permitted to a traveller, under such circumstances, to hazard an opinion, but such statements should be accepted by the public, *cum grano et sale*.

Mr. Dawson is, however, very guarded in his statements, and does not attempt to impress upon his readers the generality of his views, and he gains from magisterial silence.

Mr. Macoun, on the other hand, an ardent admirer of nature and a zealous botanist, has allowed himself a latitude of expression with regard to areas suitable for agriculture in the North-West, which, at the least, can only be regarded as ideal.

In Mr. S. Fleming's Report for 1877, at page 336, Mr. Macoun made a classification of the lands in the Canadian North-West. Taking, for example, of the five acres described, that of the Peace River country, it will be seen that he estimates the available quantity of arable land to be sixteen millions acres.

It may be interesting to know by what process he arrived at the above result. Referring to the Geological Report of 1875-76, it appears he descended the Peace River by canoe to Fort St. John, then ascended the northern slopes of the river valley, walked northward a distance of nine miles, and returned over the same trail to his starting point.

From Fort St. John he descended by raft or canoe to Dunsmuir thence by canoe to Fort Chippewyan and Athabasca. He laid out only to camp, and also made botanical examinations at Battle River, a million and a half miles. Upon three occasions he penetrated the country to a distance of half a mile from the Peace River. At Athabasca the Hudson Bay Company forwarded him via Portage la Piche (Moose Portage), to the Crater and Green Lake, to Carlton. The latter portion of his journey was by water, with the exception of some 140 miles between Green Lake and Carlton.



months. All his movements were hurried, owing to lack of provisions while descending the placid Peace River, and on the Isle à la Crosse route, from the fact that he was a passenger in the Hudson Bay boats. (*Vide* pages 156 to 165 of his report.)

Between Dunvegan and Fort Chippewyan the Peace River flows at the bottom of a valley which decreases in depth, from 700 feet at the former, to 50 feet and less at the latter place. It was consequently impossible to see anything of the surrounding country from a canoe.

How then, in the name of common sense, can he justify his sweeping assertion that there are sixteen millions acres of arable land within the section of country drained by the Peace River, east of the Rocky Mountains?

Does he think that British capitalists will swallow such an unfounded statement?

To take a map and measure off certain unknown and unseen areas finished this remarkably easy method of "doing" the country.

That there are vast areas suitable for settlement there is every reason to believe, but there is no justification for deliberately misleading the public with an array of imaginary figures. Facts, not fancies, are wanted.

Similar wild estimates have, perhaps, been made in other parts of the North-West, and the writer is not alone in decrying such a wholesale method of survey, for, in the early part of 1879, when he brought the impropriety and absurdity of jumping areas in this manner, under the notice of the Minister of Railways, and of the Chief Engineer, Mr. Fleming, the latter quite concurred.

Doctor Dawson's examination of the southern portion of the Peace River country during the season of 1879 has however removed in great measure, any doubts as to its value and extent.

In 1872, the writer hazarded the opinion (see "Canada on the Pacific") that, in the southern Peace River country there would *probably* be found available for settlement, agricultural land equal in extent to the original Province of Manitoba. This view has been more than justified by Doctor Dawson.

In the last report issued, Mr. Macoun exhibits a map "indicating the limits within which good lands are known to exist, west of the 101st meridian."

there is a tract or triangular [redacted] shown as prairie and good land, [redacted] and worthless for agriculture, i.e., that [redacted] from Rocky Mountain House northward to [redacted] and thence west and north to the Rocky Mountains. [redacted] (ward Inlet) line is projected through this worthless [redacted] Macoun speaks of in his Report of 187 [redacted] 328, [redacted] *the worst part of the swampy region near the [redacted] Moun-*

Mr. Macoun's [redacted] were: To explore 60,000 square [redacted] of the country west of Livingston and north of the 51 [redacted] of latitude.

He was present five months in the field. Admitting that he travelled continuously during the whole of that period, at the average rate of 20 miles per day and that he was able to determine the quality of the soil for two miles on each side of his track as he was travelling, he would be in a position to report upon 12,000 square miles or 80,000 acres. He, however, affirms that there are 134,000,000 acres of [redacted] land between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains, exclusive of the [redacted] River country.

How does he know this? He did not see one-twentieth part of this enormous area. His map is divided into sections represented by the parallelograms contained between adjacent parallels and meridians. He rode across (directly or diagonally) some 23 of those sections. One of these sections represents an area equal to two counties in the Province of Ontario. Is it reasonable to believe that a hasty ride across an Ontario county would enable anyone to state its agricultural value?

Mr. Macoun states that much of the prairie country south of the 52nd parallel is better than has been reported by Palliser. It may be interesting to quote from M. Bourgeau's botanical notes. Sir William Hooker in 1858. This was a French gentleman, [redacted] the attain [redacted], who [redacted] two or three consecutive years [redacted] the [redacted] prairie country of the [redacted] North-V



"they are called, which make a show from a distance, but when approached are found to consist of a small species of willow."

"The true arid district, which occupies much of the country along the South Saskatchewan, and reaches as far north as latitude  $52^{\circ}$ , has, even early in the season, a dry, parched look. In the northern district the accumulation of *humus* and the distribution of the pleistocene deposits has given rise to a variety in the nature of the soil; but to the south the cretaceous and tertiary strata almost everywhere come to the surface, so that the stiff clay, highly impregnated with sulphates, bakes under the influence of the clear sun of early spring, into a hard and cracked surface, that resists the germination of seeds. This must be the principal reason for the arid plains ranging to such a high latitude, as there is quite a sufficient quantity of moisture in the atmosphere during the summer months, to support a more vigorous vegetation, as is shown as far south as latitude  $49^{\circ} 30'$  N. when at the Cypress Hills, south sides of deep river valleys, and other expanses sheltered from the sun's rays until he acquires a considerable altitude, are found to be covered with pines, spruce firs, poplars, and abundant varieties of the vegetation found further to the north."

"In the arid plains, the plants, most evidently different from those regions to the north, are small *opuntias*, also the *sage* of the Americans."

"Much of the arid country is occupied by tracts of loose sand, which is constantly on the move before the prevailing winds."

"This district, although there are fertile spots throughout its extent can never be of much advantage to us as a possession."

"Along the base of the Rocky Mountains there is much fine land, with very rich pasturage."

Mr. Bourgeau, a most able botanist, passed a very much longer period in the North-West than Mr. Macoun, but a glance at his report will show that he never went so far as to classify areas. He quite admits the existence of vast tracts of excellent land south of the North Saskatchewan. He speaks highly of the agricultural capabilities of the country between Carlton and Edmonton, mentions the navigability of the two Saskatchewan and their largest tributaries, and in fine, gives a report which, from an economic and scientific point of view, would be difficult to subvert.

It is, however, quite apparent that the botanical testimony clashes in some important particulars. The public may judge from the statements made, which of the two is better entitled to credence.

The brown line drawn from Cumberland House to lesser Slave Lake,

Report, shows the northern limit of the formation. It abounds.

Statements of 1875, regarding the lower Athabasca, Report 1875-76, page 170.

No. 4, Mr. Macoun, speaking of the aridity characteristic of the country north of the 49th parallel, south of the Saskatchewan, refers to the cretaceous clays as sterile. He also mentions that the breaking up of the soil assists growth of some of the plants.

This is quite true, but he should have mentioned that the facts and theories have been long well-known. He has culled his information from Doctor Dawson's Report in connection with the Boundary Commission, and from other known works published some years ago.

This cretaceous formation, which Mr. Macoun admits to be the cause of sterility, is fully discussed in Doctor Dawson's Report of 1875.

"347. *Fort Pierre Groupe*. This group appears to be a very "great extent of country in the region north of the 49th parallel."

"352. Dr. Hayden writes: 'This formation is the most important "one in the cretaceous system of the North-West.'"

"Wherever this deposit prevails, it renders the country completely sterile than any other geological formation I have seen in the "North-West."

"The contrast between the country resting on the formation and "that based on the Lignite Tertiary, is very striking. "where the "dry uplands of the Tertiary would seem, at first, less favourable than "the low-lying plains of No. 4; the former can support a stock "growth of nutritious grasses, where the latter has the character "described."

Doctor Dawson defines the boundaries of the cretaceous subdivision, within which territory, page 170, his Report in connection with the Boundary Commission, and further on supplies abundant information in regard to water supply, the climate, tree-growth and areas of settlement in the North-West. Mr. Macoun has clipped into all these the facts and premises borrowed from the public as his own. This is not fair, either to the authors quoted or to



Since writing the above, Mr. Macoun has gone forth in search of more acres. Upon this occasion his mission is to the south-west. It will be interesting to hear the result of this year's expedition. It cannot, however, be doubted that the Dominion will be further enriched by many more millions of acres. It may be taken for granted that another scientific adjustment of the map will be in order, and that much of the arid, cactus region north of the boundary line will be forever obliterated to make room for countless prospective homesteads. Plethoric capitalists will look forward with anxiety for the next Report.

In the summer of 1871 the first engineering parties from Ottawa were sent out, east and west, north and south. The writer accompanied the first prairie expedition under Mr. F. Moberly, and travelled from Fort Garry to Edmonton, Rocky Mountain House, the Kootenay plains, near Howe's Pass, back to Edmonton, thence to Jasper House, and back to Ottawa, during the period between August, 1871, and March, 1872.

In August, 1872, Mr. S. Fleming started from Fort Garry, Red River, with the avowed purpose of going over the line of route examined in the preceding year, to Victoria, B. C. The writer's services, as one of the members of the expedition of 1871, were called for to guide the Chief Engineer across the prairie section. The proceedings of the Chief Engineer's party upon that occasion have been duly chronicled in "Ocean to Ocean," a publication which, as its reverend writer remarks incidentally, purports to be "a truthful narrative."

At page 3 of the Report of the Engineer-in-Chief, dated 8th April, 1880, Mr. Fleming says :—"The first examination under my direction was made in 1872, when I passed over the line from Lake Superior to the Pacific." This sentence is scarcely correct, the last postulate being positively misleading. Mr. Fleming's expedition, consisting of himself, a clergyman, a doctor, Mr. Fleming's son, Mr. Macoun and the writer, travelled at the rate of 40 miles per day, between Fort Garry and Edmonton, over one of the many cart trails which intersect the country, but, far from following the then proposed, and now located, railway line, saw actually nothing of it, being at times from 70 to 100 miles to the north or south, according to the sinuosities of the trail. The expedition was, in fact, to all intents and purposes, under the control of the Reverend

Geo

...ning, made strenuous efforts to  
possible, being, as he said himself,  
his parishioners at Halifax, by the 15th  
Accordingly, the examination of the prairie section  
need.

...tion, the party was broken up, the botanist and writer  
the Peace River, the others continuing on the Hudson  
... Jasper House, and ultimately to Victoria, where they reached  
... For particulars of what they did and saw, and  
that the reader must refer to the volume already mentioned.  
"Ocean to Ocean" the writer of this paper, after passing the Rocky  
Mountains, by the Peace River Pass, and sending the ... home via  
the Fraser River, finally crossed British Columbia, on ... shoes from  
Fort McLeod, ... and Naas Rivers, and reached the ... at  
Fort Simpson, in January.

During the journey from Edmonton to McLeod Lake, the Peace  
River country, the writer being, from his experience in the country  
between Edmonton and Jasper House in the previous year, well qualified  
to institute comparisons, saw the probable advantages of the Peace  
River route, or, more correctly speaking, of the Pine River route, over  
the southern line, as means of access to Bute Inlet, the place being  
then one of the termini most highly thought of. He accordingly reported  
in favour of the Pine River route, in preference to that of the Peace  
River, a proposition which created some disgust, and caused much  
obloquy to be cast upon his judgment.

It has since been admitted by some of Mr. Fleming's engineers, who  
are still staunch adherents to the "Yellow Head" route, that had Bute  
Inlet been finally adopted as the western terminus, the Pine River route  
would have offered the best route to it.

It has however, required many years to fully realize this, but the  
final rejection of Bute Inlet a couple of years ago, paved the way for the  
... mission.

Until the writer viewed Bute Inlet as a terminus, but,  
having seen the line leading to it for at least 150 miles, he  
has gradually become convinced of its suitability, especially within the  
last year. In 1874, the writer was commissioned by the Government to  
examine the Cascade Range from sea level to summit, between the



parallels of 52° and 54° north latitude. The sloop "Triumph" of the Geological Survey was, for this purpose, placed at his disposal, an examination of the various inlets made, and the result duly reported to the Chief Engineer. (*Vide* Report of 1877, page 137.)

This report, before its incorporation with Mr. Fleming's general report was, however strangely mutilated, and the portion treating of the coast from Douglas Channel southward to Queen Charlotte Sound, entirely suppressed.

This has lately proved to be a very unfortunate circumstance, as the matter of the suppressed portion entirely escaped the writer's memory until last winter, when an examination of Mr. Keefer's work on the Skeena between Fort Simpson and Kitsumkallum River led to a retrospect of the work of 1874.

Upon referring to the partially suppressed report of 1874, the writer found, at page 81 of his original MSS., the following passage:—

"It is needless to lengthen this report by more than a passing allusion to the Kitimat Inlet, a huge water-filled indentation like the others of the coast; and, as there appears to be no passage from it to the interior plateau, further reference to it here would be superfluous."\*

But appended to this report, and marked for interpolation after the last passage, appeared the following remark:—

"At the north-east corner of this arm of the sea, there is a long and narrow bay, which, were it dredged, would form an excellent harbour. There is ample room for wharfage, but to deepen this bay, the Kitimat, or at least one of its outlets, would require to be diverted to the west side of the Inlet. A micrometrical survey has been made by Mr. Richardson, during my absence in the interior while searching for passes. Had I been successful in this respect, soundings of the upper end of the Inlet would have been taken, and, in fact, a hydrographical examination would have been made. As an outlet from the upper Skeena, through the Cascades, the Kitimat Valley, apparently, offers facilities unparalleled elsewhere on the coast."

The report was mutilated in four other places besides. The writer objected, but was told that the document was already too lengthy.

In the year 1877, Mr. H. J. Cambie was sent by Mr. Fleming to examine the Skeena and Wotsonqua Valleys, in connection with a line from Port Simpson to the interior. When at Kitsumkallum river, he

NOTE.—By "interior plateau" was meant the lake region immediately east from the Valley of the Kitimat and behind the "Cascades." The writer's instructions were to search for passes leading directly from the sea to this plateau. A route by the Skeena river was not then thought of. [*Vide* page 133, S. Fleming's report of 1877.]

ceeded [redacted] Killoosah, and saw a [redacted] of [redacted]  
[redacted] has not been referred to in Mr. [redacted]  
[redacted] Appendix C, Report 1878.] Neither has [redacted]  
[redacted] made by Mr. Fleming's engineers, until [redacted]  
[redacted] received the following letter from the [redacted]

" OTTAWA, 9th March, 1880.

[redacted], Esq.,

*Superintendent-in-Chief, Canadian Pacific Railway.*

" [redacted] view Mr. Keefer's recent survey from the [redacted]  
" War [redacted] Skeena, through the Cascade Mountains, with [redacted]  
" object [redacted] communication between the Forks of Skeena and [redacted]  
" Port Simpson, it has occurred to me to make the following [redacted] questions,  
" which, although rather late in the season, may prove in [redacted] g:—

" An inspection of Mr. Keefer's plan shows, as indeed might [redacted]  
" been expected, [redacted] miles of extremely difficult [redacted]  
" through the very core of the coast range, which added to the [redacted]  
" from the Head of Wark Canal to Port Simpson, aggregated at least [redacted]  
" one hundred miles of the most expensive railway work [redacted] between the  
" Kitsunkallum River and the suggested terminal point, Port Simpson."

" Now, I think it is possible to avoid this difficulty, since [redacted]  
" diverging from some point on the Skeena below Kitsellasse [redacted]  
" southward towards Lake Killoosah, and thence following the wide, [redacted]  
" open valley of the Kitimat to the Head of Douglas Channel, where I [redacted]  
" have no doubt whatever that it is possible, at an expense [redacted] much  
" less than the difference in cost of construction between the [redacted]  
" Skeena and Port Simpson route, and that now suggested, to [redacted]  
" good terminal harbour."

" In 1874, I examined the Kitimat Valley, for the purpose of finding [redacted]  
" an outlet in that quarter from the interior plateau. I [redacted] success-  
" ful, although I pointed out the favourable features of this valley. In [redacted]  
" my report (see your own report for 1877), I gave a description of the [redacted]  
" Douglas Channel, but by some mischance that portion was omitted."

" In view of this circumstance, I deem it not out of [redacted] to again  
" bring before you the above facts, which, it must be [redacted], were  
" not very clearly put forward in my report of 1874."

" I would [redacted] that the [redacted] of the [redacted] that is one of the [redacted] st  
" [redacted] live on [redacted] east, and [redacted] confid [redacted] at the summit [redacted] in  
" the [redacted] and the [redacted] Skeena does [redacted] exceed 1,000 feet above sea level.  
" More [redacted] by this [redacted] the [redacted] the 'Cascades' will be avoided  
" altog [redacted] and the [redacted] ce betw [redacted] the Forks of Skeena and the sea  
" shortened at least 50 miles."



" At the north-east corner of the Inlet, there is a natural harbour two miles in length, perfectly sheltered, but shallow. This could be easily dredged, were the main volume of the Kitimat diverted to the west side of the canal. The head of the canal is, of course, only a roadstead, but I think there is tolerably fair anchorage, and the offing can be reached by a magnificent channel and Nepean Sound."

" For steamships this harbour is as easily accessible as any on the coast. It seems to me that a proper hydrographical survey should be made, as also a survey from the head of the Inlet to some point on the Skeena near Kitsumkallum River, and should this harbour question be solved successfully, this route may prove even shorter than any yet suggested."

" I am, sir, yours, etc.,

(Signed), C. HORETZKY.

Mr. Fleming acknowledged the receipt of the foregoing as follows :

" OTTAWA, 10th March, 1880.

" MY DEAR SIR,—I find, in looking over Mr. Keefer's Report, now in type, he refers to the suggestion you made yesterday. In the second last paragraph of his Report he mentions the Valley of the Lakels (Killoosah) as offering easy access to Gardner Inlet. Mr. Keefer informs me that Mr. Cambie went to the lake near the summit in the year, 1877, and looked down the Kitimat Valley. I think I remember he discussed the matter with me at the time, but, for some reason or other, it went no further. I have just seen Mr. Keefer and he confirms all you say about the character of the Valley.

" Yours, etc.,

(Signed), " S. FLEMING."

Mr. Keefer neither saw the valley of the Kitimat nor the Douglas Channel, but he confirms all the writer says about its character, and adds that there will be no difficulty in carrying a line by it to the head of Gardner Canal. He is mistaken; it is a physical impossibility to carry a line from the Kitimat to the head of Gardner Canal, or, in other words, to reach the head of Gardner Canal from the head of the Kitimat would involve 90 miles of the heaviest work along the roughest Canal on the coast, an engineering feat no one would ever dream of attempting; but he may have mistaken one inlet for the other.

It is certainly an odd circumstance that the finest valley, without exception, upon the British Columbian sea-board, piercing the " Cascades," has been overlooked without any assigned reason. There is not the shadow of a doubt as to the possibility of making an excellent ter-

real port at the head of Douglas Inlet. I consider the water area available for shipping is sufficient. Wharves can be constructed in a fine dock, perfectly sheltered from the wind. A large square miles of water area can be made by throwing a floating breakwater across the Inlet wherever the water is deep enough. In the event of the water being too deep for anchorage, the breakwater can be disposed as desirable. A floating breakwater of logs, laid in sections of any desired length, drawing 10 feet of water, and sufficient to form a perfect mill-pond to leeward in the event of a storm, and sheltered from the wind, exclusive of moorings, cost more than \$150,000.

There is no inlet on the coast which offers greater facilities for the construction of wharves. The adjoining ground is certainly more convenient for the construction of a large city than that around Port Simpson, being perfectly flat, with room for extension twenty miles back if necessary.

Owing to the fact of the upper harbour of Kitimat being completely land locked, and also to the large volume of fresh water which the easternmost mouth of the river Kitimat pours into it, there are no icebergs during winter when ice forms. This, the Indians averred, was carried away by the tide. However that may be, the divergence of the Kitimat to the west side of the inlet, and the dredging out of the shoals within, and at the narrow entrance of, the upper harbour, will certainly obviate any inconvenience which might arise from that cause.

As regards the climate at the head of the Douglas Channel, it may be said to differ but slightly, if at all, from that of Port Simpson. The Douglas Channel is straight and wide, its upper extremity being fifty miles from Whale and Wright Sounds, and being thus more subject to the atmospheric influences of the Pacific Ocean than the long, tortuous and dismal Fiords of "Gardner," "Dean" and "Benbow," which pierce the very core of the coast range, must necessarily be under similar climatic conditions as the more northern Port Simpson.

On careful inquiry, however, the various winds on referring to the fact that the heavy snow which covers the valley of the Kitimat range, never, except in our feet, reaches the coast.

The climate of northern British Columbia has been much more unfavourably compared with that of the southern portion of British



Columbia. It is certainly more humid, but undoubtedly less subject to fogs than the southern Georgian Sea, and the coast, if wet, is no worse in that respect than those of Nova Scotia, the upper Atlantic States, and Scotland.

The reader may, in this connection, derive some valuable information from Captain Brundige's weather tables, showing the climate of Port Simpson, at pages 163 to 167 of Mr. S. Fleming's last railway report.

In addition to the facilities afforded by the lower portion of the Valley of the Kitimat for the site of a large city, the harbour and its approaches are admirably situated for defence, and can, with the greatest ease, be made completely safe from foreign attack. Beacon Hill, named by the writer, 1,450 feet in height, from which a photographic sketch of the upper valley and harbour was taken, commands the latter as well as the magnificent channel to the southward, besides being able to sweep the upper portion of the valley, in the event of any attempt at hostilities from the Skeena quarter. The citadels of Quebec and Gibraltar sink into insignificance when compared with this commanding and impregnable position. So much cannot be said of Port Simpson, which would be almost within range of Alaskan batteries in the event of war, and is by no means so favourably situated for defence.

Illimitable water power is available for mills and factories throughout the entire length of the Kitimat Valley, the Kitimat River and its eastern tributary, the Lachagues, affording a constant supply. In fine, as remarked before, there is no locality upon the whole British Columbian Coast line, which combines so many natural advantages for the Western terminus of the Pacific Railway.

Clio Bay, a few miles below the Head of the Inlet, on the eastern shore, has already been alluded to. There is fair anchorage there.

It has been stated that this Inlet is very readily accessible from the offing by Nepean and Wright Sounds, and from Port Simpson. It is also accessible by the Ogden Channel, a passage nearly mid-way between Douglas Channel and Port Simpson.

At page 154, S. Fleming's Report, 1880, Captain J. C. Brundige thus speaks of it:—"I consider there is not a better locality for ships "to make the land on the whole coast than here."

Port Fleming, at the upper end of the Grenville Canal, adds another to the list of the havens of refuge favourably situated for vessels ap-

1854, Mr. S. Fleming's Report,

to the coast, either at Port Simpson or  
Brundige says, at page 159, Report 1880 :—

ships from the south and west can make Cape St. James  
ships make Cape Clear, on entering British Columbia other

oil up, they can enter Ogden, Eddy or Brown Passages  
either is superior to San Juan."

By San Juan evidently means the passage from Fuca  
to Burrard Inlet.

As one possessed of a very fair knowledge of the British Columbia  
coast, and of other navigable rivers and harbours, the writer can  
corroborate all Captain Brundige says, and unhesitatingly affirm  
the "Douglas" Channel, at the head of which is situated the  
proposed terminal harbour for an Imperial and Canadian trans-conti-  
nental railway, is as safely and as easily accessible from the Pacific  
Ocean as many of the very best Pacific Coast harbours, and in  
more easy of approach than the harbours of Burrard Inlet.

To reach the "Kitimat," either from the Nepean or the  
"Ogden" Passage, the towage for sailing ships would not be 60 or  
90 miles in either case.

To reach the harbour of English Bay (Burrard Inlet), the  
towage is necessary, but the risks of navigation are greater.

An inspection of Captain Brundige's report shows that he examined  
nearly every place of importance in the vicinity of Port Simpson, but  
the head of the Douglas Inlet, a circumstance which, taken in con-  
nection with the mutilation of the writer's report of 1874, Mr. C.  
silence on that subject in his Report of 1877, and the ignorance by the  
Chief Engineer of the matter in recent reports, must appear singular.

is, how very no more probable the examination  
by the Chief Engineer of the March last to the  
Engineer be, even his late in process; if so, it is to be  
hoped that the person interested with the work may not be able to  
paltry considerations, and that he will report conscientiously.



briefly, upon the subject which has formed the gist of this paper. Accordingly, Sir John Macdonald was written to on the 12th inst. (May).

Numerous surveys and explorations have been carried out within the last decade throughout all parts of the North-West. The writer has, as must now be apparent, taken part in those very important operations which have cost such enormous sums to the Dominion of Canada. It appears that those examinations might have been made without the prodigious outlay involved, especially on the Pacific side; it is not, however, the writer's intention to discuss that matter.

During the season of 1879, a very large and expensive expedition went into the Peace River country. The party consisted of Mr. H. J. Cambie, Mr. MacLeod, the Rev. D. M. Gordon, and Dr. Dawson, of the Geological Survey of Canada. The programme of their proceedings was to enter from the Pacific side, descend the Peace River, cross the Pine River Pass, and examine the Peace River country. With a view of meeting the Rev. Mr. Gordon on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, another expeditionary party was dispatched from Winnipeg to meet him as he emerged from the fastnesses of the Athabasca region.

Their outfit from Fort St. James was, in Mr. Cambie's own words (*Vide* page 42, Report 1880):—

“ Our party, for the exploration of the Peace River country, then “ consisted of six on the staff (Mr. Cambie was also accompanied by a “ Secretary), 14 packers, besides two men and 5 Indians, 27 in all, and “ our train consisted of 72 pack-mules, with 23 riding animals; a total “ of 95 animals.”

It would be very interesting to the public to know the result of this grand expedition, but, as space will not permit us to follow each individual member of this party in his peregrinations, it will suffice for present purposes, to know what the chief of the expedition did during the long summer of 1879.

With the exception of Doctor Dawson, who crossed the Rocky Mountains, by the Pine Pass, the whole party descended the Peace River from Fort McLeod to Dunvegan, by boat and raft.

Mr. Cambie thence rode on horseback to Smoky River, (45 miles), from Smoky River to Sturgeon Lake, (41 miles), from Sturgeon Lake to Little Smoky River, (30 miles), from Little Smoky River to Lesser Slave Lake, (28 miles), from Lesser Slave to Peace River, (55 miles), from the crossing of Peace River along the left bank to Dunvegan, (50 miles),

...), and from Fort St. John to ... small portion was seen of the route proposed in 1872, i.e., in the distance, between Dunvegan and ... going east. Mr. MacLeod performed the greater ...

... Hudson Hope, Mr. Cambie travelled to Moberly Lake, and ... Pine River (26 miles), up the Pine River (previously examined and reported upon by Mr. Hunter) (35 miles) from the Peace River to Stewart Lake, (108 miles). Much distance was over ground travelled by the writer in 1872, as a result of this expedition has been (apart from the valuable information obtained by Doctor Davidson and the minute inspection of the engineering features of the country south of the Peace River, by Mr. MacLeod), but to ... the writer's views expressed in 1872.

In verification of this statement, I shall here quote extracts from a Memorandum by the writer to the Minister of Railways, dated, "20th January, 1879," at the request of the latter.

"In point of fact, the Peace River Pass is not so formidable, nor in any portion does it bear any resemblance to a ... between the head and foot of the Rocky Mountain ... which is entirely beyond, and east of the main range, and on a very much reduced scale, as compared with the steep, rocky slopes of the main range."

"In reality, the passage of the Peace River, through the Rocky Mountains, is an easier problem to solve than the continuation of a line immediately to the eastward, in its low trough 700 feet beneath the plateau, or in close proximity to the river along the adjacent ... the last alternative, all but impracticable, on the line indicated in Fleming's Report."

"Indeed, were it possible to carry that line at the high level of the plateau (1,700 or 1,800 feet above sea), there might be the reason ... taking advantage of the Peace River ... were it advantageous ... ated with regard to ... but, as any line through the pass must either descend to the low level of the Peace River, or ascend the Rocky Mountains, and maintain that level as far as the Rocky Mountains, or must diverge from the eastern portal of the Pass ... to avoid the profound valleys of the Whitefish, Pine, Mud, Echafaud and other streams, the objection



"The line in discussion is traced across the portage, from the head of the Rocky Mountain Canón, and easterly along the Peace River, to the Forks of the Smoky River."

"It is impossible to carry a line as projected across the portage without miles of tunnelling, for the simple reason that the lowest part of the ridge across which the portage trail is made, is 1,000 feet higher than the water level at Hudson's Hope, while to follow the semi-circular course of the canón (25 miles in length), will, in all probability, entail heavy works in rock, however, I do not question the practicability of the latter alternative along the right bank, but I am of the opinion, that from Hudson's Hope to the Smoky River, a line following the low level of the Peace River, will be objectionable, in consequence of unavoidably bad alignment, its length and heavy works occasionally, with frequency of bridge structures across the mouths of the southern tributaries and numerous dry ravines, not to mention the difficulty of gaining the high level again beyond the Smoky River."

"In all the distance from Hudson's Hope to the Smoky River, the Peace River flows at the bottom of a trough, 600 to 800 feet, beneath the surrounding plateau. Alluvial flats, terraces of varying altitudes alternating with rocky exposures, clay and gravel slides occupy the slopes of this trough, which are intersected by numerous rivers, countless creeks, and dry coulees, all of which debouch on the main stream through immense gorges, showing vertical sections as deep as that of the Peace River Valley itself."

"The immense ravines and river valleys above mentioned, place road construction along the heights in proximity to the river *entirely out of the question.*"

"For the above reasons, I have always favoured a line from the Pine Pass, parallel to the Peace River, but thirty or more miles to the southward, where the valleys of the rivers are of decreased depth, and where they might be crossed to better advantage."

"Mr. Hunter's exploration of 1877 has, so far, proved the soundness of my views and has even exceeded my expectations."

Messrs. Cambie and MacLeod have amply verified the views expressed in the above extracts (see Mr. Fleming's Report, 1880, pages 44, 45, 56) but it is difficult to understand why such an extravagantly equipped party was needed, especially with the whole summer before them.

The writer's party of 1872 was but a toy affair compared with the expedition of 1879, which, in addition, was met from Winnipeg by another outfit of no mean proportions.

In September, 1872, the writer and his associate, Mr. Macoun, left

Montor

route for MacLeod Lake

of the country excepting by the expedition made its way, and Pass at the most inclement season of Lake in November. The whole cost of that exceed \$1,000, and the results were highly im-

Cost of Horetzki's Expedition from Edmonton to MacLeod

Hire of horses from the Hudson's Bay Company..	\$450
" " 2 men from Edmonton to Rocky Mountain Canon	100
" " 4 Indians and 1 half-breed, Rocky Mountain Canon to MacLeod Lake.....	
" " 2 men with Hudson's Bay Company to return to owners).....	20
Provisions and sundries.....	200

Mr. Cambie had also a Secretary at a high salary, besides a domo at \$75 per month. The duties of this person were to talk Indians, to see to the putting up of the tents, etc., etc. Four or five of Mr. Cambie's men were sent home from the east side via U. S. C. P. Railroads and steamer to Victoria, at a very great cost to the Government.

Let there be no misunderstanding; Messrs. Dawson and MacLeod did excellent work, the former, by examining the country as to soil, geology and climate; the latter, in surveying minutely the features of the line proposed in 1872.

Mr. Cambie takes exception to Professor Selwyn's description of the country about Hudson's Hope.

The latter says at page 62, Geological Report of 1875

th Sept. - A little frost; thermometer: 32° at 7:30  
ste lent to horse, at 7:30, Mr. Webster  
" for MacLeod Lake. trail run for three miles  
river, an turn he left ascends by several steps or  
benche the plat an und country of alternating low,  
sandy elly rid covered w. forest of small pine, swampy  
depressions, with spruce and tamarac and well-grassed flats, thinly-



" wooded with aspen, alder and willow. In places the woods were all  
 " burnt, and in these *brûlés* we lost a good deal of time searching for the  
 " trail. At 6 p. m., however, we reached the top of a hill, from which a  
 " small piece of the Lake was visible, about three miles distant down a  
 " narrow valley. We camped here, an operation which consisted in  
 " lighting a fire, putting up a few boughs for a break-wind, and eating  
 " our supper of bread and dried moose meat. Starting at 7 a. m. on  
 " the following morning, we reached a rocky hill immediately above the  
 " south-west end of the lake at 9.30. The trail wound round the flank  
 " of it and descended towards the lake shore. As there was nothing to  
 " be gained by following it further we dismounted, and, leaving our  
 " horses on the trail, climbed to the summit, where an extensive view of  
 " the surrounding country was obtained and a series of bearings taken.  
 " The barometer reading was 26.59, indicating about 2,000 feet above  
 " Hudson's Hope, and only a little less elevated than Table Mountain  
 " on Pine River, which I think I recognised, bearing 97°. The strata  
 " here are quite similar to those of Table Mountain—horizontal, thick-  
 " bedded, reddish-brown and grey sandstones—but no fossils were seen  
 " in them. The hills around the lake, especially the lower slopes and  
 " the intervening valleys, are richly grassed. Pea-vine, *Astragalus* and  
 " various nutritious grasses standing above one's knees on horseback.  
 " There are large areas of open prairie land, and more which is only  
 " wooded with willow, aspen and alder copices. On the higher slopes  
 " pine prevails, and, in the low grounds, spruce, tamarac and poplar.  
 " A purple-red *Epilobium* is very abundant, also service-berry, 'poire'  
 " and a species of *Viburnum*—high-bush cranberry. I never saw the  
 " berries on the latter so fine or so abundant. On some of the open,  
 " sandy ridges, blueberries and cranberries were also plentiful. Charlotte  
 " tells me that the snow fall is comparatively light, and that horses do  
 " well through winter amongst these hills. I consider it a region far  
 " fitter for settlement than much of the Saskatchewan country. We are now  
 " in the middle of September, the thermometer has only once reached  
 " 32°, and potatoe tops at Hudson Hope are still green."

At page 51, Pacific Railway Report, 1880, Mr. Cambie thus  
 describes the same locality :—

" We reached Hudson's Hope September 15th, and tried to obtain  
 " a guide to take us to Pine River, but failed, as the Indians were  
 " all absent; accordingly we left next morning and followed a  
 " hunting trail to Moberly's Lake. The trail ascends from Peace River  
 " by a series of benches, and at one and a-half miles reaches the plateau,  
 " which is here about 2,000 feet above sea level, and continues at the  
 " same elevation to the fifth mile; it then passes over a ridge 900 feet  
 " above the plateau and along a steep hill side to the south-western end  
 " of Moberly's Lake, at an estimated elevation of 2,050 feet above sea  
 " level."

information at my disposal, (Mr. [redacted] have been situated two-thirds [redacted] to Pine River, and in a country somewhat hilly and with large areas of [redacted]

[redacted] surprise, therefore, to find myself only nine miles [redacted] [redacted] and hemmed in by hills, rising from 2,000 to [redacted] sea level, the only level land visible, [redacted] the Moberly's River, which empties into the lake from the west; [redacted] between me and Pine River lay a range of mountains [redacted] least [redacted] miles broad, rendered almost impassible by [redacted] timber, [redacted] being on the slopes of steep hills facing south."

"There was no possibility of retreat; the party on Pine [redacted] was waiting for us, [redacted] having only a limited supply of provisions, [redacted] delay might prove disastrous to the parties."

"Fortunately, I was able to reinforce my little band by engaging the services of an Irishman named Armstrong, whom we [redacted] building a shanty for himself in order to hunt during the winter. [redacted] had spent part of the summer at the lake, hunting, prospecting for gold, and catching fish for the support of a number of sleigh dogs belonging to the Hudson Bay Company."

"White fish were then, [September 17th,] very abundant and [redacted] gave us all we could carry. They varied from 4 to 6 lbs. [redacted] eight, were very fat and seemed to me quite equal to the far-famed fish of Lake Huron."

"We followed the valley of Moberly's River, south-westward, [redacted] eight miles and then turned southwards up a small tributary. [redacted] four days, during which we had chopped our way through [redacted] fallen timber from day-light to dark, I found myself in a small [redacted] with hills rising steeply 1,000 to 1,200 feet on both sides and [redacted] and these, where not actually precipitous, were so strewn with [redacted] timber of large size, that it seemed a hopeless task to attempt to [redacted] our way through without help. I therefore sent two men ahead to find Mr. Major and get some of his party to come to our [redacted] while I remained behind to take care of the mules, assisted by [redacted] strong who had cut his foot with an axe."

[redacted] messengers returned [redacted] days afterwards with [redacted] on September 24th, we reached Pine River and joined the main [redacted]

"I estimated that [redacted] only [redacted] miles from Moberly's [redacted] had travelled nearly 8 [redacted] in the [redacted] four miles had passed [redacted] mountain 4,200 feet above sea-level. We were also 21 miles west of [redacted]



" In the first five miles from Hudson Hope, we had crossed two small tamarac swamps and some stretches of light, sandy soil, with a small growth of poplar and spruce."

" We had again met with some level land in the Valley of Moberly's Lake, which for nine miles above the lake averages nearly half a mile in width in the bottom. Some portions of this are gravelly and barren and others fertile, with a few small prairies producing rich grass. There are also some fine prairies at the lake, on slopes facing the south.

Mr. Macoun also remarks of this locality, page 152 of Geological Report, 1875 :—

" The following extract from my journal, written on the spot, will give a truthful picture of Hudson Hope, as I found it on the 22nd of July, 1875 :—I have been extremely surprised at the rankness of the vegetation around here, although there is very little rain at this season and has been little all spring. Wild peas and vetches grow to an amazing height in the poplar woods, and form almost impenetrable thickets in many places. Vetches, roses, willow-herb and grasses of the genera *Poa*, *Triticum* and *Bromus* fill the woods and cover the burnt ground, and surprise Canadians by their rankness and almost tropical luxuriance. Charlette, who is in charge of this post, has two small gardens, in which he has growing, potatoes, onions, turnips, beets, carrots, cabbage, and various other vegetables. Yesterday we had new potatoes for dinner, of a very fair size, which were planted on April 28th. Numbers of the onions were one and a-half inches across, raised from seed imported from England, and sown about the 1st of May. Growth is extremely rapid, owing partly to the length of day and cloudless skies supplemented by heavy dews, and possibly also in part to the great range of temperature during the 24 hours, from about 45° at sunrise to 80° Fahr. at noon. Sometimes the range is even more, but the above may be taken as the average. The rankness of the vegetation on the west shore of Lake Superior has frequently been alluded to, and may be caused by the somewhat similar great range in the temperature there. Can it be that all the rank vegetation observed around Lake Superior, in the Rocky Mountains and here, is connected with the sinking of the temperature during the night, and increased activity given to the vegetation during the day on this account? We have warm sultry days, and cool pleasant nights, with constant regularity, and we are told that this is the usual summer weather. The left bank of the river is much drier than the right, and, as a consequence of this, growth on it is much further advanced. The frost of the 28th of June, however, was more severe on the left bank than on the right. Charlette informed me that in 1874 there was no frost from the 1st of May to the 15th of September. In 1875, sowing commenced the last week in April, and the first frost came on the 8th of September."

From the preceding pages, it must be manifest that the Burrard Inlet route may involve the Union of Canada.

In its justification, that the bulk of the population of the mainland, is centred along its tributaries in the south. True. But the personal interests should not be allowed to weigh against the interests of the rest of British North America.

The line is justified, for all intents and purposes, upon United States soil, (at least for the first six hundred miles through the mountains) and running for six hundred miles through an irreclaimable wilderness is not what Canadians bargained for. It is not what British Imperial interests demand, and Canadian public opinion will see to it.

As for the proposed construction of 125 miles of railway between Yale and Kamloops (to cost \$1,000,000, and as much more as the contractors may choose), is only intended for local purposes, to say, for the purpose of serving the traffic of the interior plateau which has never yet exported a bag of flour, of which the sole agricultural exports for 1878 were cranberries, valued in the aggregate at \$162, then no more need be said.

The canned and pickled salmon of the Lower Frazer, the lumber trade of Burrard Inlet, the coal of Nanaimo, require no railway. They have the finest waterways in the world to serve their purpose.

The following facts are significant:

In his Report of 1879, Mr. Fleming penned the following paragraph which he has quoted at page 4 of his latest report:—

"It cannot be said that the selection of Burrard Inlet as a terminus, has given general satisfaction in British Columbia. On the contrary, a claim has been advanced in that Province that another route and terminus are preferable. It is therefore, to be considered if additional investigations should be made, more complete information obtained, and regard to the Northern route, so that it may be definitely determined to be more valuable than the present one. Accordingly, I suggest that the route explored, lying between Fort Connally and Fort McLeod, in British Columbia, and the large tracts of unsettled territory east of the Rocky Mountains, in the latitude of Peace River, which



"have never yet been traversed by scientific travellers, be explored, and accurate data obtained respecting the feasibility of a railway through that region to the Pacific Coast."

He then proceeds to say in the Report of 1880 :—

"The Burrard Inlet route was known to be marked by many difficulties, and to involve an enormous outlay, but with all the disadvantages which it presents, I considered that it was entitled to the preference."

"For six consecutive years, and at an exceptionally great cost, unremitting and systematic efforts had been made without success to find a better and less expensive line. Indeed, there seemed no alternative but the adoption of that route, unless further examination of the northern country made it apparent that a better and more eligible location could be found under conditions so favourable that it would command ready acceptance."

"Owing, in some degree, to the fact that the northern districts of British Columbia are remote from the areas of population, a northern route obtained but little attention during the early stages of the survey. It was only when it was found that no line could be secured in the more southern latitude, except at great outlay, that a northern route came prominently into notice, and that more extended examinations became desirable."

"It was a serious responsibility for any engineer to assume to recommend that construction should be commenced on the line to Burrard Inlet, without first having exhausted all the sources of enquiry open to us. I felt that we should clearly and unmistakeably understand the capabilities and possibilities of the northern region, that we should obtain data, to determine if a railway line could be obtained through it, that we should know the character of the route, and that we should possess full information with regard to the climate, soil and capability for settlement, before the Government became irrevocably committed to the large expenditure attendant upon the adoption of any route."

*"It is easy to be understood that, if, subsequent to the construction of the railway on the southern route, it was discovered that a northern line could have been undertaken at a greatly reduced cost, through a country, in respect of soil and climate, suitable for prosperous settlement, a gross and irremediable error would have been committed, possibly ever to be deplored."*

"Additional northern explorations, therefore, seemed to be advisable whatever the result obtained. Under any circumstances, it was evident that the information gained, even if of negative value, would be important in adding to our positive knowledge of the territory."

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\* Note.—The reader's attention is particularly requested to this paragraph.

The Government had decided, however, to make additional examinations of the country which flanks both sides of the Burrard Inlet.

It was proposed so to carry on that the work was systematically and rapidly gained, that it could be completed in a short time, and the choice of the location, and the commencement of the work, no longer delayed.

The territory embraced was the country lying north, east of the Rocky Mountains, and Port Simpson, on the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Port Simpson had already been reported to be an excellent harbour. It was known that a deep-water arm of the river, named Wark Inlet, some 35 miles in length, extended to the west of Port Simpson, in the direction of the River Skeena; Wark Inlet being separated from the Skeena by a narrow isthmus of no great extent.

The objects of the examination were to discover the most favorable route from the coast of the Peace River District, on the east side of the mountains, and thence to the line already near Edmonton; to gain full information with regard to Port Simpson, to verify the reports as to Wark Canal being navigable by sailing ships, to ascertain how far the country lying between the head of the sheet of water and the River Skeena, and the Valley of the Skeena were suitable for a railway line, and to obtain such definite information respecting the nature of a portion of the line accessible to steamers from the ocean, as would admit of a contract for construction at once let, in the event of a northern route being chosen.

The examination really involved the determination of the propriety of whether the choice of the Burrard Inlet route should be sustained or abandoned, and if construction should be immediately commenced on the northern or on the southern line.

The service was, consequently, one of importance. The instructions to the officers selected, together with their Reports, are given in full in the Appendix. As time was an element in the problem, it was arranged that the examinations should be energetically pushed out, and that so soon as the information was obtained, a synopsis of it should be sent by telegraph from Edmonton to Ottawa. Before the month of September the information was received and laid before the Government.

The work was one of the "most selected" to carry out these examinations. His duty was the most arduous, and involved the exploration of a route through three distinct mountain ranges, across a hitherto unknown portion of the country, entirely on foot and by canoe.



where possible. *The section he had to examine was in fact the key to the whole question of a route from Port Simpson to the eastern prairie region, as his objective point was the Peace River Pass, the Pine River route having been counted out. (Vide pages 9 and 10 Pacific Railway Report of 1878, whereon Mr. Fleming says) :—*

" I do not attach the same importance to the ' Pine River Pass ' as Mr. Smith. \* \* \* Although favourably situated for a line to a Northern Terminus, its importance is not enhanced by the fact that a still lower pass—Peace River—exists, only a few miles further north. I have accordingly projected a northern line of railway through Peace River Pass, which I consider preferable."\*

On the 25th July, 1879, the writer indited the following letter to Mr. H. J. Cambie :—

" HAZELTON, FORKS OF SKEENA, 25th July, 1879.

" H. J. Cambie, Esq.,

" Stewart's Lake, or elsewhere.

" DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from a preliminary reconnaissance, *via* the Atnah Pass, Bear Lake, Driftwood River, Lake Tatla, and the 'Frying Pan Pass.'

" I have reached the following conclusions: that, if the Babine River prove as favourable as I suppose it will, a direct and generally easy line will be found from its upper portion, easterly through a fairly level country, to the Kotsine River, thence across the Driftwood River Valley, and from Tatla Lake to the Omenica, by one of several low passes, either touching the Omenica-Sitlica, or through the present pass, used by miners, which I believe available for a railway.

" I have reason to think that the lower Omenica will prove favourable. My preconceived ideas regarding this northern country and the central range through which the Frying Pan Pass leads, have been considerably modified since my recent journey, and I believe that the profile of this proposed line will prove better than any yet found, excepting that of the Wotsonqua valley.

" There is quite a break in the central range in latitude 55° 40', and through this gap flows the Kotsine River, which I believe will afford a good pass (probably not higher than 3,000 feet above the sea) from a level valley which I have seen from mountain heights to the northward, and which communicates with the upper portion of the Babine River.

" Eastward from the Driftwood River I anticipate no difficulty in getting over into the Omenica, as I have already stated.

\* NOTE.—The writer always attached more importance to the Pine River Pass than to that of the Peace River, and Mr. Cambie has been obliged to admit that the former is the better of the two.

The route is the circuitous course  
which would be common to all other  
routes.

The Peace River is at least forty miles due north  
of Fort Connolly is in a higher latitude than is  
On my return I have carefully examined the  
I have taken more precise heights of it than I did  
place at 1,400 feet above Lake Babine, and I have  
\* \* \* \* \* I have, however, reached  
the Babine River, between the mouth of which  
and the Peace River, the ascent will probably not exceed 1,200 feet  
that further ascent on the Susqua valley route need scarcely now  
be made.

"I expect, D. W. to reach 'Hogem' on the Omenica, the  
end of September."

I am, dear sir, yours,

(Signed) "C. HORETZKY"

The substance of this letter was forthwith transmitted to Mr.  
Fleming at Ottawa, and must have reached him some time in August.

Meanwhile, the Peace River party descended the Peace River, and  
telegraphed the results of their examination as follows:—

"TELEGRAPHIC REPORT ON EXPLORATIONS FROM FORT  
"SIMPSON, ON THE PACIFIC COAST, TO EDMONTON, BY THE  
"THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY AND PINE RIVER PASS,  
"BY MESSRS. CAMBIE, MacLEOD, DAWSON AND GORDON."

"To SANDFORD FLEMING,

"Ottawa.

"From HAY LAKE, 24th September, 1879.

"(Near Edmonton.)

"Arrived last night. Reached Dunvegan 1st August, there  
"2nd September. Party spent month in exploring country. Upper  
"left Edmonton 8th August. I came by Slave Lake and  
"Lake Courtenay from ten miles south of Slave Lake to  
"exploring on both sides of road, moving to Edmonton  
"practically with aspen, poplar and occasional pine and spruce. I  
"Dunvegan, Smoky River, 50 miles; Smoky River to Slave  
"Lake Post, Slave Lake, 70; east of Slave Lake to Athabasca  
"Landing, by river, about 100; Landing to Edmonton, 96.  
"all forwarded, by mistake, to Tupper's care; none received; anxious



" around here appears superior to Peace River country for raising grain.  
 " Before leaving Dunvegan all agreed on the following telegram :—

" Red line, letter A, to Slave Lake, direct and generally easy.  
 " Pine River, 500 feet wide; height of bridge, 70 feet. Gradients  
 " leaving the river, 1 foot per 100. Summit eastward, 900 feet lower  
 " than Hunter's, and 15 miles further north. Mud River, 400 feet  
 " wide; height of bridge, 60 feet. Gradients on west side, very easy;  
 " on east side, 1 per 100.

" Échafaud River, 800 feet wide; bridge, 60 feet high. Gradients,  
 " moderate; work occasionally heavy three miles on each side of bridge.

" River Brulé, 50 feet wide; bridge 70 feet high. Valley, narrow;  
 " gradients, easy.

" Smoky River, 750 feet wide; bridge 100 feet high. Valley about  
 " 500 feet deep at crossing; gradients, slightly exceeding 1 per 100.  
 " Works very heavy for three miles on each side.

" Goose River, 400 feet wide; valley, 200 feet deep; bridge, 50 feet  
 " high. Gradients on each side easy.

" Whole country, from Pine River to Slave Lake, with these excep-  
 " tions, very favourable.

" Pine River and Slave Lake appear to be approximately correct on  
 " plan of 1876, but Smoky River and Dunvegan are placed about 50  
 " miles to far west."

" Blue line, letter A, to Southesk, examined to suitable crossing of  
 " Smoky River, latitude 55° 10', longitude 118° 40' on the map of 1876.  
 " Blue and red lines, common to River Déchafaud, 50 miles east of Pine  
 " River; thence to Smoky River, generally very easy, except about four  
 " miles following up the south Bank of the Échafaud River, where  
 " work would be heavy. No important streams crossed between Pine  
 " River and Smoky River. Approach to Smoky River by valley of large  
 " stream on each side; bridge, 500 feet long, 60 feet high. Cannot  
 " report on remainder of line, not having heard from Tupper. Have  
 " ascertained that he was still at Edmonton, on 2nd August."

" Line from Fort St. James to Fort McLeod, undulating, but pre-  
 " senting no great difficulties as far as Long Lake, thence to McLeod's,  
 " following valley of Long Lake River. Gradients, long, 1 per 100;  
 " works very heavy, chiefly in gravel and stony ridges. A moderately  
 " direct line can be had from Fort Frazer to Fort St. James."

" Assuming direct line from Southesk to crossing of Smoky River,  
 " the route by letter A to Fort Frazer would be about 55 miles longer  
 " than the located route."

" Country pretty thoroughly explored as to general features from  
 " Pine River to Lesser Slave Lake, between 55th and 56th parallels of

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tude, elevation of plateau, and soil almost everywhere of prairie and lightly wooded near 55th parallel, also 50 miles or more from the Smoky River, also fertile, but with very many swamps and beaver dams, which could be crossed."

"On receipt of the above telegram received, summer frosts occur occasionally in July. We have experienced several frosts in August, and on the plateau. Wheat thrives and grows at Dunsmuir and Lesser Slave Lake, the latter localities being on the plateau."

"The party regard this statement as approximately accurate, but regret that pressure of time prevents the preparation of fuller and more satisfactory details. A special opportunity has arisen for sending this message from Dawson to Edmonton."

"At date of this telegram, 2nd September, all members of the party were well. Cambie returns with pack train by Pine River. MacLeod and Dawson continue explorations eastward and westward."

(Signed)

"H. J. CAMBIE,  
"HENRY A. F. MacLEOD  
"GEORGE M. DAWSON  
"DANIEL M. GORDON"

The writer desires to point out that the above telegram proves beyond a doubt, the soundness of the views expressed in 1872, officially and in "Canada on the Pacific," see map therein, where "route from A to Slave Lake," referred to in the above telegram, corresponds exactly with that shown on the map, and described to the Minister of Railways in the Memorandum dated, 20th January, 1879.

A few days after the receipt of this despatch, Mr. Fleming addressed the Minister of Railways, as follows:—

"CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.

"OFFICE OF THE JUNIOR-IN-CHIEF,  
"OTTAWA, 1 September."

"SIR, I have the honor to report to you on some of the explorations authorized by you in the spring of 1879, in connection with the proposed Pacific Railway."

"Before deciding on the route through British Columbia, it was



“ deemed advisable to gain additional information regarding the northern portions of that Province, as well as the territory extending east of the Rocky Mountains and lying between the latitude of Peace River and Edmonton.

“ I have received despatches from several of the parties who were sent in May last, under special instructions, to explore in these regions, and who were directed to examine the harbours on the northern coast of British Columbia and the approaches thereto by sea.

“ At the date of last returns, these examinations were by no means complete, but considerable progress had been made, and the information so far obtained is of importance.

“ The country south of Peace River, hitherto unexplored, between the Rocky Mountains and Lesser Slave Lake, has been traversed in various directions as far south as the 55th parallel of latitude. The general character of the district for railway construction has been ascertained, and the fertile nature of the soil has been found to extend over a wider area than had been previously known.

“ I have not heard from all the parties ; I cannot, therefore, refer to the explorations which by this time may have been made to the east of the mountains between the 55th parallel and Edmonton.

“ Nor can I allude to the progress of explorations on the western side of the mountains between Fort MacLeod and Fort Connelly, embracing the basin of the Nation River.

“ Although the examinations are incomplete and the returns partial, nearly all doubts are now removed as to the possibility of getting a practical railway line from the neighbourhood of Edmonton, by way of Peace River, and the valley of the River Skeena, to Port Simpson. The coast examinations, too, go to show that at Port Simpson a harbour exists, which is probably unrivalled in British Columbia.”

“ The question of distance is an important one. The more northern route has not been instrumentally surveyed, and, consequently, the distance to Port Simpson cannot yet be accurately stated. A rough estimate, however, indicates that the line referred to, from Edmonton as a common point *via* the Peace River country, will probably be found 100 miles shorter to Port Simpson than to Esquimalt.

“ The engineering character and the cost would, at the same time, I feel certain, be greatly in favour of the line terminating at Port Simpson.”

“ In comparing the line to Port Simpson, to which I have alluded, with the one *via* the Yellow Head Pass, to Burrard Inlet, the latter appears to be from 160 to 190 miles shorter, *but one of the advan-*

...thera route is, that it would  
 ...the River country.\* The line by  
 ...a branch, meet the same object, but  
 ...equally with the main line passing  
 ...fully 300 miles in length. If we as-  
 ...distance be added to the line to Burrard Inlet,  
 ...placed nearly on an equal footing, in point  
 ...reports on the route to Port Simpson would compare our-  
 ...with the line to Burrard Inlet, and I have reason to think  
 ...that the total cost of the former is considerably less than the latter when  
 ...heads is taken into consideration. My previous reports give full ex-  
 ...nations regarding the favorable geographical position of Port Simpson  
 ...in relation to the Arctic continent."†

"There can be no doubt, from the examinations made this year, of  
 ...which partial returns only have yet been received, go to show that  
 ...northern route possesses advantages greater than previously known. For  
 ...what has been brought to light, I would consider it wise, at this stage,  
 ...to adopt, and begin construction, on either the Burrard Inlet or Bute  
 ...Inlet routes."‡

"While I would deem it prudent to defer a final decision v  
 ...regard to the adoption of any route, until we receive more defi  
 ...information regarding some portions of the country now under ex  
 ...ination, I have no hesitation in saying, that, considered  
 ...the question of climate, the route to Port Simpson presents  
 ...so many advantages that, to my mind, it opens up an excellent prospect  
 ...of securing the most eligible route from the prairie region to the Pa  
 ...Coast."

"I have mentioned that the returns from our exploring  
 ...incomplete. From what I have learned, however, I am quite  
 ...enough to think that, before the close of the season, we may be able  
 ...to show that a line may be secured from the Peace River Distri  
 ...Port Simpson, considerably shorter than the line which I have al  
 ...referred to. Should this view be realized, the comparison of r  
 ...will be still more in favour of the one terminating at Port Simpson.§

"With regard to the question of climate, I have, in my previous  
 ...alluded to this subject, and now I refer to extracts from  
 ...t of the reports of C. G. M. Dundee, a practical geologist, in specially deta

\*NOTE.—That the work was urged during the last eight years.  
 †NOTE.—Concerns of cost and immediate advantages, as regards the construction of the Kitimat is as before.  
 ‡NOTE.—With all deference to Mr. Fleming, the advantages of the Northern route are as before.  
 §NOTE.—Mr. Fleming refers to the substance of the writer's letter to Mr. H. J. Cambie, of date, 25th July, 1879, relating to the Kotsine Pass route.



" make full examinations and enquiries respecting the coast, harbours and approaches. I also append some extracts from Mr. D. M. Gordon's letters ; that gentleman speaks for himself, and Messrs. Cambie and MacLeod, in regard to the explorations they have been engaged in in Northern British Columbia.

" From these it would seem that, while the interior of the country is free from an excess of moisture, the rainfall on the coast is great, and the climate there may compare generally with the west coast of Scotland and with parts of Nova Scotia. From these extracts it will also be learned that Port Simpson is a capacious and safe harbour, and that it is perfectly easy of access to ocean steamers or sailing ships, night or day, and at all conditions of the tide.

" It is obvious that Port Simpson is a place which possesses exceptional natural advantages, and in the event of a northern route for the railway being chosen, it would undoubtedly become a place of great importance. I would, therefore, suggest that no time be lost in taking steps to have the land in the neighborhood reserved.

" I have the honor to be,

" &c., &c., &c.,

(Signed) " SANDFORD FLEMING,

" *Engineer-in-Chief.*

" The Hon. Sir CHARLES TUPPER, K.C.M.G.,

" &c., &c., &c.,

" Minister of Railways and Canals."

The foregoing letter shows conclusively that, even with the indefinite information received up to its date, Mr. Fleming felt that the northern route presented immense advantages—engineering and otherwise—over the Burrard Line. Port Simpson is the finest harbour on the whole coast, but to reach it, the formidable " Cascades," for a distance of 75 miles, must be passed.

Notwithstanding this great disadvantage, Mr. Fleming still saw the immense superiority of the northern route *via* Pine Pass, over the Burrard Line.

What, then, would he have thought of it, had he known that the sea could be reached without running the gauntlet of the coast range at all, simply by taking advantage of the Valley of the Kitimat ? Without this knowledge, his letter to the Minister of Railways is unmistakably in favour of deferring construction. And he had not then heard the writer's final report upon the missing link between Hazelton and the Peace River Pass.

possession, Mr. Fleming, Minister of Railways to defer consideration of the matter. Despite this professional advice, and in good faith, an Order in Council was passed in 1874, ratifying the selection of the Frazer River line. What was the result? The thought of this? And it would be interesting to know whether the Government had forgotten all about the Kitimat. In 1877, Mr. H. J. Cambie spoke of it privately, and in 1879, yet the subject was completely ignored.

This matter is certainly worthy of full investigation for many reasons:—

The Kitimat, as it is, is the easiest of all the lines hitherto examined in British Columbia. It presents fewer miles of heavy work than any other.

Between Rocky Mountain Summit and the Pacific its construction will cost (approximately) ten millions dollars less than the proposed Yellow Head route. It passes through the dreaded coast range low, wide, open valley, the finest on the coast.

East of the Rocky Mountains it opens up a nearly continuous belt of agricultural and pastoral land, all the way from the Fort Pine River to Manitoba.

Its general profile is the finest across the North American continent from ocean to ocean. Its highest summit is only 2,800 feet above sea level.

On the Pacific slope it taps the greatest connected region susceptible of cultivation in British Columbia (*Vide* Dawson's report) which has a climate similar to that of Edmonton, where wheat attains perfection (*Vide* Macoun's Report.)

At its western end there are unlimited facilities for the extension of a large railway.

The terminus is at 4,000 feet from Yellow Head, being 400 feet lower to the sea than the proposed route. That terminus is safer than the proposed route, and Captain S. G. didge expresses the opinion that the passages leading to it, and approaches from the sea, are the best on the coast. (*Vide* page 154)



Railway Report 1880.) It is within ten or twelve hours steaming of Port Simpson, the best harbour on the British Columbian coast. It has, within easy reach, numerous havens of refuge. With the wind at west, south-west or south-east, sailing ships can reach the head of Douglas Channel, *via* Nepean Sound, *without* towage.

With a light-house on Cape St. James, and three other lights in the inner passages, the coast can be made on the darkest night with perfect safety.

In none of the numerous channels leading from the ocean to Douglas Inlet, are there any tide-rips or overfalls, the tide setting regularly along the coast, and rarely, if at all, exceeding a rate of three knots per hour.

Certain marine engineering works will be necessary to form a perfectly good harbour at Kitimat. Those have been referred to in the preceding pages.

It is clear that a northern route terminating either at Port Simpson or at the Kitimat, will be cheaper by millions of dollars than the Burrard line.

It is also evident that, to answer the purposes of a Colonization road, the northern line is infinitely preferable to the southern route, which must run for six hundred miles through an irreclaimable wilderness.

It is, or should be, intelligible to all, that, to carry a great colonization and imperial highway out of its proper course, upon the plea of serving the interests of 2,000 or 3,000 whites on the Frazer River, is absurd.

The writer feels that, strengthened as he is by the written testimony already cited, and backed by the evidence of the Chief Engineer himself, in his letter of the 30th September, 1879, addressed to Sir Charles Tupper, the ground he has taken in support of a northern route is impregnable.

In July, 1878, an Order in Council was passed, practically adopting the Burrard Inlet route. The late Premier had, acting upon the advice of the Chief Engineer of the Pacific Railway, authorized this action.

It has been shown, conclusively, that all reports upon the Kitimat Valley and route had been suppressed, and the inference is, that the matter had never been discussed between the Premier and his Engineer.

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September, 1878, Mr. Fien  
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Were the explorations of 1879, then, a mere sham? These explorations were solemnly, avowedly undertaken for the express purpose of averting a possible error, a calamity "ever after to be deplored" as Mr. Fleming gravely wrote. [See page 5, of Report.]

The results of these explorations are glaringly apparent, and point unmistakeably to a far better route for colonization purposes, and also one much easier of construction, and consequently less costly; yet, notwithstanding, the Order in Council of July, 1878, was ratified, and a report framed in accordance.

The whole matter is certainly well worthy of a searching investigation, and in the meantime may afford the taxpayers ample food for reflection.

Within the past few weeks there have been rumours of a proposal, on the part of the Dominion Government, to hand over fifty millions acres of land in the North-West, to a company of English capitalists for the purpose of building the Pacific Railway. Recent movements of Ministers appear to confirm the truth of the report, and it is not unlikely, ere many weeks elapse, that something more definite may be heard.

In 1871, the scheme in which Sir Hugh Allan figured so prominently, but which, fortunately for the country, fell to the ground, involved a grant of 20,000 acres of land, together with a cash bonus of \$12,000 for each mile of railway constructed. The land was to have been taken up along the entire length of the road from Nipissingue to the Pacific, good and bad acres, indiscriminately.

That scheme, impolitic as Canadians then judged it to be, was far less dangerous to the interests of the North-West than the present proposition. It now appears, if newspaper reports can be relied on, that English capitalists will not look at any of the lands within the Woodland and Rocky Mountain regions, knowing that both eastern and western sections of the road where located now, pass through a worthless country. They are to help themselves to the "cream" of the North-West, and will confine their choice within the erroneously designated "thousand mile" belt of prairie.

The proposition, if allowed, will be excessively unwise, and merits universal reprobation.

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ordinary public lands retained by Government within the limits of the railway grant, from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre. Congress was actually forced to raise the price of Government lands *at the bidding of the Railway Company*, which, of course, had no desire to see adjoining lands sold for half the price of the railway reserves. Similar, if not worse results will follow in the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The lands will be sold at a high figure, and in many instances on credit; they will be mortgaged to the Railway Corporation at high interest, and, the result in the majority of cases will be that the poor, struggling settler will insensibly drift into a state of bondage, while an odious system of feudalism will be inaugurated throughout the North-West.

Let any one enquire into the condition of the small farmers along the lines of railway in the United States, which have been subsidized by land grants, and it will be found that even in the best settled States of the west, a large number of the fairest farms are mortgaged beyond redemption to the grasping corporations which own and control the roads.

The unhappy effects of land monopolies must still be fresh in the memory of French Canadians. How were the townships between the St. Lawrence and the frontier depopulated? What caused the exodus of the flower of Canadian youth, when one-twentieth of the whole population of Lower Canada, some thirty years ago, went into exile, driven from their homes by a selfish land policy, to increase the population of Maine and Vermont? What was the testimony of the Abbé Ferland and many of the most respected Roman Catholic clergymen of Lower Canada, when questioned as to the causes of depopulation? And will the French Canadians of to-day suffer the repetition of such a policy of extinction and degradation of the French race in the North-West, of which their daring ancestors and self-denying priesthood have been the honoured pioneers and discoverers?

The Government is bound by every principle of justice to watch over and jealously guard Canada's heritage in the west. It is bound to see to the encouragement of the honest settlement of the country, and the only way to do this is to render the possession of extravagantly large estates burdensome to the owners, and to compel the occupation of the land by its proprietors. Any other land policy will bring about the most disastrous effects.

...areas of which the public has  
...Reports with regard to the fertile  
...may be interesting to review briefly the  
...joining the proposed line of railway, from  
...life. The idea has gone abroad that the entire  
...to the Rocky Mountains is a perfect  
...as to its extent and resources.

People... the dark forests of Eastern Canada, are  
...to rush... the unwanted appearance of the grassy plain  
...of Manitoba. In fact, there has been a little too much enthusiasm.  
What is the reality?

There are no roads between Nipissing and Red River, the  
region north of Lake Huron to Superior, being for the most part  
rocky, sterile, and difficult for railway purposes, while the country  
between Thunder Bay and Manitoba, offers but few inducements for  
settlement.

The "Woodland Region," in the words of the Chief Engineer, "  
*not offer any great prospect of becoming an agricultural country.*"

The maps facing pages 234 and 245 of the last Railway... are  
calculated to mislead, and the assertion is here reiterated, that good  
saleable, agricultural lands, along the proposed railway line, cease at  
Lake St. Anne, some 45 miles west of Edmonton Fort. Between  
St. Anne and the Yellow Head Pass—a distance of 200 miles—we  
the authority of Engineer McLeod and of the Reverend George Grant,  
and others, for stating the country to be nearly all worthless. Much  
of it muskeg, while, regarding the valueless character of the British  
Columbia section, the reader can refer to the authorities already quoted.

The only valuable lands along the route of the proposed Pacific  
Railway, are between Manitoba and Edmonton, or more strictly  
ing... St. Anne... distance... at 750 miles—and the  
tho... has been thus described by Mr. McLeod, an offi-  
... Flemington, and a gentleman of undoubted veracity.

"Of... country between Winnipeg and Lake St. Anne, I  
that the proportion of... land is about 40%  
"fair land, 15 per cent.; and poor, light sandy, or clay and boggy...



"timber—small poplar—between Livingston and Edmonton, along the line of railway, is about 54 per cent. For 200 miles west of Livingston the country is much covered with wood and water."

From the above quotation, it will be noted that, only about *one-half* of those lands is really good, and readily saleable. The extracts from other Surveyor's reports confirm Mr. MacLeod's statement.

In view, then, of the true facts of the case, in so far as the land question is concerned, it may not be such an easy matter to induce foreign capital to assume the responsibility of building the Pacific Railway, as now proposed. If the unwise scheme of conveying the choice lands of the North-West to a foreign Company be carried out, and a Corporation be found sufficiently insane to undertake the construction of a railway through the Eastern Woodland region and the mountains of British Columbia, in consideration of even such a large slice from the central section, as the Government may dare to offer, and a cash bonus such as that proposed in 1871, those who embark in the scheme must bear the consequences. All the writer can say on the subject is "*Caveat Emptor.*"

In the neighbouring states and territories of the Republic, there are millions of acres of fine lands to be had for a merely nominal sum, and companies of Capitalists would find, that to build the Pacific Railway even from Manitoba to the Pacific, all the Dominion acres within 100 miles of the line of road in the fertile section, *i.e.* between the western boundary of Manitoba and Edmonton, will not suffice. The proof is a simple calculation. A strip of 700 miles in length, and 200 miles in width, equals 140,000 square miles, or a little over 89,000,000 acres, nearly half of which must be assumed of inferior quality, if we adopt Mr. H. MacLeod's estimate of the proportions of inferior, to first-class fertile areas. But the Government cannot give away such wholesale quantities of land in this manner. The proposition is, it may be presumed, to grant *alternate* sections only, so that the estimate now made must be reduced one-half, and the probabilities are that, even upon the basis of "*hundred mile*" blocks on both sides of the southern line, the choice lands available for capitalists will not exceed, after deductions for worthless lands are made, an area of 25,000,000 of acres.

It has been shown upon the authority of Messrs. Dawson, Selwyn, Marcus Smith, Macoun, Eberts, O'Keefe and Smith, that from the "Middle Forks" of Pine River, upon the northern line, a nearly contin-

and stretches almost uninter-  
rupted for a thousand miles.

The evidence of MacLeod and Cambie lead to the belief that the construction of this line, will cost much less than the corresponding Yellow Head route. Mr. Marcus Smith has safely estimated that work of construction will be much more on the southern than on the northern line. Mr. [redacted] Chief Engineer, has given his opinion that the present work of construction, Mr. Frazer, is unwise, in view of the advantages offered by the northern line. The accumulation of evidence given in those pages confirms these views: The northern line is the better of the two for purposes of colonization and also of commerce. Canadians may note for

The writer is perfectly sure that the views embodied in this pamphlet will create some surprise, and, perhaps, excite the indignation of those journals which have already constituted themselves the "opponents" of the people upon the question discussed.

The writer has, as must be perfectly apparent, abstained as much as possible from obtruding his own views upon the public, his aim has been so to group all the trustworthy evidence as to afford the public, chiefly interested—the already overburdened taxpayers—ready means for making themselves thoroughly acquainted with the subject. It is claimed in this paper that it is more a synopsis of evidence, a summing up, and were, of the best testimony, than an exposition of any particular theory. A simple, unvarnished statement of hard, stubborn facts has been made, and the writer frankly admits, that it will concern him much to see that statement unfairly impugned, as an attack upon this pamphlet can mean nothing more or less than an outrage upon many of the ablest and valuable officers of the Geological and Pacific Railway Staff whose official evidence has formed, to a great extent, the basis of the discussion.





